

IRAN NEWS

A Taliban Gunner Mans an Anti-Aircraft Canon on the Back of a Truck Passing in Front of Snow-Covered Mountains North of Kabul, Nov. 20.
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President Yeltsin Has Left the Kremlin Hospital and Moved to a Suburban Moscow Rest Home
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Iran, Germany Move to Salvage Ties Amid Terrorism Row



RAFSANJANI
IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The leaders of Iran and Germany yesterday moved to salvage relations in crisis over allegations by Berlin prosecutors that Tehran was involved in terrorist acts in Germany.
President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani pledged yesterday to protect relations with Germany after receiving a letter from Chancellor Helmut Kohl assuring Tehran that Germany did not mean to cause offense to the Iranian people's religious feelings.
"We should not allow the

Rafsanjani: U.S., Zionists Trying to Wreck Tehran-Bonn Ties
Kohl: Germany Did Not Mean to Offend Iran

string slip away from the hands of our two governments and fall into the hands of other circles," Rafsanjani warned in a speech at the weekly Friday prayers at Tehran University.
"We hope with political wisdom the problem will come to a good ending as I do not doubt that both countries want to have sincere cooperation," he said.
Rafsanjani said in his first remarks since the crisis began 10 days ago that he planned to answer Kohl's letter and that he would inform the public on its content.
German prosecutors have accused Iranian leaders of approving the assassination death of four Iranian Kurdish leaders in a Ber-

lin restaurant in 1992.
The allegations have caused a wave of protest in Iran with people demanding apology from Bonn for hurting Iranians' religious sentiments or risk breaking ties.
Kohl said in his letter on Thursday that "both the federal government and the German judicial system are far from seeking to injure the religious feelings of your people and its spiritual leadership."
He urged the Iranian President to use his influence to "avoid a further sharpening in the currently tense relations with Iran."
Germany, which is Iran's top trading partner, has a "critical dialogue" policy with Tehran and has



KOHL
rejected U.S. calls to isolate the government.
Rafsanjani told his people "not to forge" that Germany was not an "enemy" like Israel and the United States.
"When we have well-recognized enemies, why should we go after vague targets?" he asked, describing the events of the past week as "tumultuous".
The so-called enemies "have even got the German government in trouble to the extent that the German chancellor writes to me and asks for help to protect our
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Significant Road Network Inaugurated in Ashkhabad in Presence of Nateq-Nouri

BY AL FIROOZI
ASHKHAHAD, TURKMENISTAN - A significant road network was inaugurated yesterday in the presence of Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri and his host, Turkmen Parliament Speaker Seidmura Nafsovie.
Nateq-Nouri arrived here for a two-day visit from Kazakhstan and was accorded a warm welcome at the international airport at Ashkhabad.
An inspection of guard of honor and introduction of high officials of the government of President Saparmurat Niyazov and Ashkhabad-based diplomatic corps to the Speaker were included in the reception ceremonies held at the airport.
Nateq-Nouri went to the presidential palace and held talks for two hours with President Niyazov.
A senior official accompanying the Speaker said that Nateq-Nouri and Niyazov talked about "ever-growing bilateral cooperation."
He said regional and international issues were also discussed by the two officials.

Later, a major project for road network connecting Bajiran (in Iran) with Ashkhabad was inaugurated in the presence of Nateq-Nouri.
The 35-kilometer long and 12-meter wide road will connect Ashkhabad to Mashhad and Bandar Abbas onward. It will also connect Ashkhabad to Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan.
An official from the Ministry of Roads and Transportation told IRAN NEWS that this road will pave the way for the connection of Central Asian republic with Bandar Abbas for warm waters.
He said the road was built by an Iranian construction company, Dubral and was completed in 23 months, one month ahead of schedule.
A total of \$17 million were spent for the construction of the road.
Nateq-Nouri is due to address an open session of Turkmen Parliament and will be awarded an honorary degree by the Turkmen Science Academy.
Nateq-Nouri flew into Ashkhabad from Almaty where he addressed Kazakh Parliament and appealed to the regional countries to stop meddling in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and Tajikistan.
Later addressing a press conference Nateq-Nouri asked all warring factions in Afghanistan to sit down and resolve their dispute without foreign interference.
On Tajikistan, he said opposition leader Abdullah Nouri was in Tehran and Iran was trying to persuade him to negotiate.
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MUSAVIAN
Musavian Blasts Those Who Instigate Iran-Germany Against Each Other

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
BONN, GERMANY - An Iranian diplomat here yesterday blasted those "who intend to instigate" Tehran-Bonn "against each other" and said they should know "that the Iranians have paid a very heavy price" in the past to keep ties intact.
Iranian Ambassador to Germany Hussein Musavian commenting on the recent move by German prosecutors said, "Irano-German relations are facing trying times."
The ambassador was commenting on November 13 baseless accusations made by German prosecutors against top Iranian officials.
Musavian said, "The people of Iran are full of wrath over the recent statements made by the German federal prosecutor. Demonstrations are being staged in different cities across the country. The chain-like reactions are
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"Victory-7" War Games Launched

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iranian forces launched major air, land and sea maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman on Thursday.

The "Victory-7" exercises cover an area of 11,000 square miles including the small Persian Gulf islands of Siri and Farur as well as the Hormuz Strait, through which a fifth of the world's crude

oil is shipped.
Besides the Navy, the regular Ground Forces and Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Basij are also taking part in the 10-day maneuvers.
Navy officials, quoted by IRNA, said around 40 planes and helicopters and more than 100 destroyers, speedboats as well as missile and rocket-launching and

artillery-carrying boats were being deployed.
Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Hassan Firouzabadi, told IRNA the exercises were aimed at "demonstrating the Armed Forces' readiness to repel foreign aggression."
"We are displaying only a small part of our naval capabilities," he said.
American and British officials

said Tuesday that U.S. and allied warships would "closely" monitor the maneuvers to assess Iran's military capabilities.
In addition to 20 U.S. navy ships which are in the region throughout the year, four British and four French warships have been in the Persian Gulf over the last few weeks to conduct exercises. German warships are also in the region.

Netanyahu Warns PLO Against Any Unilateral Independence Moves



NABLUS, WEST BANK: Some 4000 Islamic activists take part in a rally organized by the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) to commemorate Palestinian and Islamic activists killed fighting Israel on the An-Najah University campus in Nablus, West Bank, Nov. 20. The rally, which followed a new wave of arrests of HAMAS activists by Israel in the West Bank over the past two days, was used by HAMAS leaders to condemn peace agreements signed by Arafat and the Israelis.
IAFP Photo

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a stern warning to Palestinian leaders yesterday against reported plans by the PLO to seek U.N. recognition of Palestinian demands for independence.
"A one-sided announcement by the Palestinian Authority on the establishment of a state is a breach of (signed) agreements and a serious mistake on its part," Netanyahu told his Cabinet, according to a statement issued by his office.
Netanyahu said his government was "prepared for this possibility," but did not elaborate. Officials in Netanyahu's office were unavailable for comment.
Foreign Minister David Levy for his part was quoted by Israel radio as saying a unilateral declaration of independence by the Palestinians "would bring a halt to the peace process."
Their statements appeared to be in response to an Israeli public radio report yesterday that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had asked that the annual debate on the Palestinian question at the U.N. General Assembly be
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IRAN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Protest Is a Must But the Question Is How?

No doubt Iran's revolutionary nation is sensitive toward certain issues, particularly the defense of the values of the Islamic Revolution.

It is but natural that the Iranian nation should be sensitive toward defending Islamic values, as they have achieved the present order after making unprecedented sacrifices.

Seventeen years after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, all moves including even protests against the enemies are expected to be purely in the Islamic style and abiding by internationally accepted diplomatic norms.

The November 15 move by the prosecutors at a Berlin court triggered a countrywide protest and the people went in front of the German Embassy, pelting eggs and tomatoes and tearing the picture of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

A protest was needed. There is no doubt. But the question is how should the protest be made?

We should note that we have diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. We have an embassy in Bonn, and Germany has its embassy in Tehran, and both diplomatic missions are the best and most suitable means of communication between the governments of the two countries. The diplomatic missions could be the best channel to beam the feelings of one nation to another.

What has been done in Berlin was a plot orchestrated by the Zionists and Americans, as was hinted by the Leader. Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei told the nation that Israel and the United States were Iran's archenemies.

The Leader of the Islamic Republic Wednesday said, "Our main enemy is made up of these two filthy and evil elements: The great Satan (U.S.) and the Zionists."

The Leader did not name Germany, but he clearly meant that hands were at work to undermine Tehran-Bonn relations, and it was the wisest step and an able guidance he had shown to the angry nation by pointing out the real enemies.

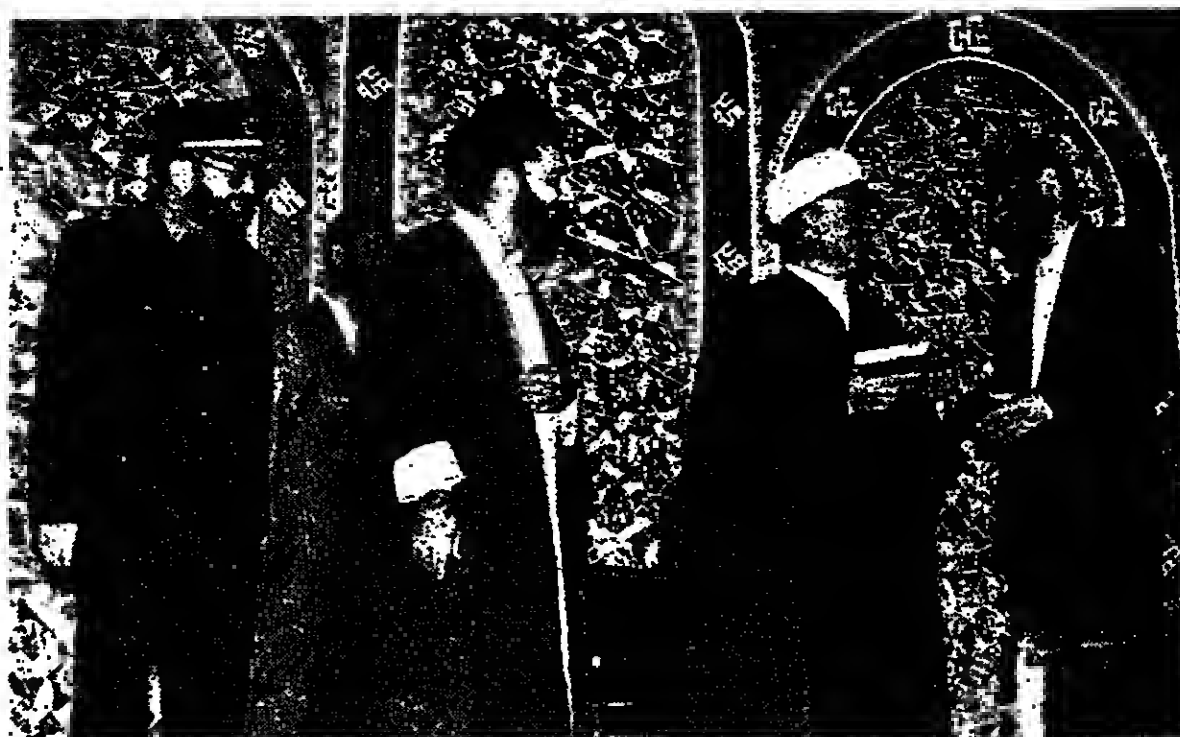
Of course, the majority of protesters, while demonstrating on the streets, were chanting slogans against Israel and the United States, but some—including the media—just ignored their crucial responsibility.

And more recently and in more clear words President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday told the nation, "We should not allow the affair to get out of hand and have the string slip away from the hands of our two governments and fall into the hands of other circles." He said, "We hope the problem will come to a good ending with political wisdom, as I do not doubt that both countries want to have sincere and friendly cooperation."

Rafsanjani's comments were made public following a personal letter by Chancellor Kohl who explained Bonn government's stand on the issue.

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Islamic Iran Will Never Forget Sacrifices of Basij



TEHRAN - President presents a gift to a model member of Basij

Photo by Abdi

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hojatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here on Thursday that Iran will never forget the brave acts and sacrifices of the Basij (Volunteer) forces during eight years of Iraqi imposed war.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a congress on Holy Quran, Velayat (governance of the Islamic jurisprudence) and Basij.

President Rafsanjani said that the valiant Basijis played a key role in defeating the enemies under conditions where the world Satan had embarked on eradicating the sacred tree of the Islamic Revolution.

He said that the million-strong young warriors came to the battlefield merely for the sake of the God Almighty and scored great victories in the history of the Sacred Defense.

The President said that eight years of defense in the battlefields by Basij forces and dedication of their lives was not an ordinary matter, adding that the Basijis are in fact the true unknown heroes of the Sacred Defense.

He pointed to the services of the Basij forces after the Sacred Defense, saying that the Basijis have made great works in the reconstruction era in health, cultural and manufacturing sectors.

On the success of the Basij forces in learning the Holy Quran, the President said teaching the Holy Quran to the people especially to the Basij is one of the fundamental and worthy jobs.

He said with guidance of the Holy Quran, human beings can choose the right direction for their lives and the Basijis are required to fully learn the Holy Quran.

The President also appreciated the role of women in promoting the culture of martyrdom and training the heroes of the Sacred Defense. He also awarded the top reciters of the Holy Quran, IRNA reported.

China Reacts Angrily to Claims It Sold Weapons to Iran

BEIJING (AFP) - China reacted furiously Friday to a U.S. newspaper report that it had sold missile technology and nerve gas to Iran.

"This report is purely fictitious and made out of ulterior motives," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"It is not worth refuting," he added. The Washington Times on Thursday cited a secret October 2 report by the Central Intelligence Agency which alleged that Beijing sold Tehran missile technology, components for an advanced radar system and nearly 400 tons of

chemicals used in nerve gas and riot control gas.

The report gave no date for the alleged transaction.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns refused to confirm the report, but said the U.S. government was continuing "to look into this carefully."

"We do treat very seriously allegations of improper trade of China to Iran," said Burns, speaking to journalists accompanying U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Asia-Pacific

economic cooperation meeting in Manila.

While acknowledging that the State Department has concerns about China's military dealings with Iran and Pakistan, Burns said that the issue cannot be allowed to overshadow Sino-U.S. relations.

"We cannot allow disagreement on a single issue to freeze contacts, to dominate our relationship or derail it," Burns said.

During talks in Beijing this week, U.S. officials said China had agreed to develop nationwide export controls to regulate the flow of weapons materials and to consider joining the Zangger Committee, which is made up of countries that are nuclear suppliers.

The committee decides which technologies can be exported. Washington believes Tehran is seeking to acquire chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

World Churches, Muslim Scholars in Iran Conference

GENEVA (Reuters) - The World Council of Churches (WCC), which links 400 million Christians in over 100 countries, was to open its first ever conference with Muslim scholars in Tehran yesterday to discuss religion, the ecumenical body said.

The Geneva-based organization, which groups Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and other non-Roman Catholic Churches, said on Thursday the meeting would also include representatives from Iranian churches.

"Interfaith dialogue is an important dimension of the work of the WCC. In this case, it occurs

against a background in Iran which has seen the assassinations of several Protestant pastors in recent years," it said in a statement.

The WCC said it hoped dialogue "can help create a greater climate of tolerance, understanding and cooperation among people of different faiths in Iranian society and beyond."

Over the past year an Iranian delegation has visited WCC's headquarters and a group from the organization traveled to Iran to meet Muslim scholars, government officials and church leaders.

Iran, Russia Sign Cooperation Memorandum

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - A memorandum for cooperation in medical and medicinal areas was signed between Iran and Russia here Thursday.

According to an IRNA report, the memorandum was signed by Iran's deputy health minister, and Deputy Health Minister of Russia Vasily Mikhailovich Moscovitch.

The agreement provides for cooperation between the two countries in the area of maternal and infantile health, preventive care against infectious diseases, coronary and heart diseases, and production of medicines.

The memorandum also provides for free medical care of Iranians and Russians while visiting

each other's countries.

The agreement, effective as of today, will be valid for five years.

The Russian official left Tehran for Moscow Thursday afternoon, IRNA reported.

Iran Hails Saudi Objectivity in Bombing Investigation

RIYADH (AFP) - Iran's ambassador here has praised Saudi Arabia's "objectivity" in investigating an anti-U.S. bombing in June and denied any Iranian involvement in the attack. *Al-Hayat* newspaper said Thursday.

"The news media recently carried implicit accusations against Iran. These accusations are with-

out basis and Saudi Arabia has proven that it is handling the events with objectivity," Ambassador Mohammad Reza Nouri told *Al-Hayat*, a Saudi newspaper based in London.

The Iranian ambassador also denied any involvement of Tehran in attacks in Egypt and the Persian Gulf Arab state of Bahrain.

On November 1, the Washing-

Kurdish refugees, said the official, adding that at present an average of 40,000 liters of kerosene is distributed daily among the refugees, stationed at the Siranband refugee camp, but due to severe cold and special geographical conditions of the region, this amount of fuel does not seem to suffice.

He further said that intolerable cold has forced around 8,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees to leave for Northern Iraq in spite of lack of security for the returnees. Hajali said that every Kurdish refugee is provided with certain necessities such as blanket, carpet, heating equipment and food, IRNA reported.

The UNHCR has not yet taken any step to provide shelter for the

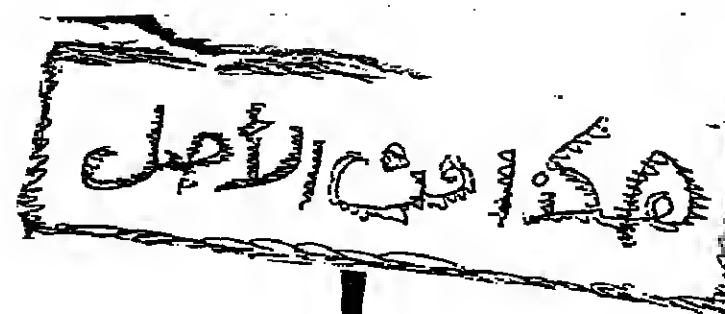
ton Post said confessions from suspects arrested in the investigation and other evidence implicated Iran as ordering the truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen at an air base in Dhahran on June 25.

The Saudi authorities said on November 11 they would remain silent until the investigation was over.



Leader Rafsanjani
Project of
Islamic
Theological
School

President
Congratulates
Lebanese
Counterpart



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IRAN DOMESTIC NEWS



Leader Praises Projects at Isfahan Theological School

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, here Thursday told visiting head of Isfahan Theological School Haj Sheikh Hussein Mazaheri that he was pleased with the progress made by the school. He said the people of Isfahan Province of Iran had consistently demonstrated genuine interest in Islamic studies.

Ayatollah Khamenei also expressed hope that the ambitious projects started at Isfahan Theological School would proceed without interruption, IRNA reported.

President Congratulates Lebanese Counterpart

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Hojatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani cabled a congratulatory message to his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi on Thursday and felicitated him and his nation on anniversary of Lebanon's Independence Day.

In this message President Rafsanjani expressed hope that Tehran-Beirut cooperation would further expand on the basis of mutual interests, IRNA reported.

11 Killed in Road Accident

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Eleven people were killed and 18 seriously injured in a collision between a bus and a trailer truck in central Iran.

The accident occurred Wednesday on a road between Ardakan and Najin near the city of Esfahan.

46 Antique Pieces Discovered

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - A total of 46 antique pieces were seized from smugglers in Abadan, Ilam Province, on Thursday.

Director of the provincial Cultural Heritage Office, Ali-Kazim Zareian said that the antiques, including rings, beads, stamps, rings set with gems, small brass utensils and carved stone objects, belonged to the Sassanid era.

Zareian said that the antiques had been unearthed in the course of unauthorized excavations in Abadan, 181 kms southeast of the provincial capital city of Ilam, IRNA reported.

Former German Minister Recommends Improved Relations with Iran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - One-time German Minister of Economy Jurgen Moellmann said in Bonn on Thursday that in his opinion Iran and Germany would do better to continue with their cooperation and opt for talks between themselves rather than distance themselves from each other.

He said some German officials suggested that the German government should upgrade policies with Iran.

Moellmann is president of the Free Liberal Party in Mordrhein-Westfalen. He said that under the present circumstances, Tehran and Bonn would do better to upgrade their talks and their cooperation.

He said that Iran plays a strategically important role in the region, it makes it all the more necessary for the Germans to continue talks with Iran. He said no decision should be made to the detriment of healthy relations between the Muslim world and the Christian world, IRNA reported.

Iranian Authors Caution

Meanwhile, the Islamic Association of Iranian Authors and Artists in a statement issued here on Thursday night called on the German government to officially apologize for the insult done to the religious sentiments of the Iranian people by an erring judge.

The statement cautioned German rulers against blindly heading into a quagmire by letting the U.S. and the Zionists assume their national affairs.

"In contrast to your material attitude which likes everything for your self-centered ego, we Muslims see everything in the universe as belonging to God Almighty and believe that a trust (Quran) was given to us on the first day, which, if entrusted to the earth and sky

would have torn them asunder. And you dared to assault our divine trust and this is not something to be easily ignored," it said.

German Citizens in No Danger

Iran pledged Thursday to guarantee the security of German diplomats and other nationals here amid a growing furor in the Islamic Republic over German charges of terrorism against Iranian leaders.



MOHAMMADI

"There is no cause for concern about the lives of German diplomats and citizens in Tehran," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said in a statement. "Iran is responsible for the security of German nationals here."

The Iranian spokesman blamed "Zionist news circles for fanning fears over the lives of German nationals here."

"To portray as insecure the conditions of German citizens in Tehran is a vain effort by some to distract attention from the just protest of our people to the baseless remarks of German prosecutors," he added.

Cut Ties with Germany

Pro-Iran Lebanese clerics Thursday called for all Muslim

states to sever ties with Germany and demanded that Bonn apologize for attacking the "spiritual guide" of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

The Assembly of Muslim clerics called in a statement issued in Baalbeck, in the eastern Bekaa Valley, for "all Muslim states and peoples to break off relations with Germany which has attacked one of our sacred symbols in the person of the guide of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei."

The Shia Muslim Assembly, whose Bekaa Valley leader is Sobbi Tufayli, a former secretary-general of the pro-Iran Lebanese Hizbollah, demands "clarification of this behavior which comes at a time when the German government is acting as an intermediary in the exchange of prisoners between Israel and Hizbollah."

"Germany must apologize to the Muslim's spiritual guide if it wants to maintain ties with Muslims," the statement said.

Close Tehran Embassy

German deputies called yesterday for Bonn to shut its embassy in Tehran and sever diplomatic relations with Iran because of its alleged involvement in terrorist acts in Germany.

In interviews with the mass-circulation Bild daily, opposition and ruling coalition deputies said that staff should be withdrawn from the embassy following German prosecutors' accusations that Iranian spiritual leaders ordered a terrorist act in Germany four years ago.

"We must recall as soon as possible our diplomatic personnel in Tehran," Hans-Ono Wilhelm, a deputy of the ruling Christian-Democratic Union (CDU) told the daily.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 59, THE GATHERING (AL-HASHR)

In the Name of God,
The Beneficent, the Merciful

8. It is also for the poorer emigrants,
Who from their homes, and their possessions,
Were driven into exile.

*The 51th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-3

(F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:51
Evening (Maghreb)	17:15
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:12
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:49

Tajik Press, Information Minister in Tehran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Tajik Press and Information Minister Babokhoo Mohammadov heading a delegation arrived here yesterday and was received at Mehrabad Airport by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyed Mostafa Mirsalim.

The Tajik delegation is here to attend the three-day international congress in commemoration of Tajik Persian-language poet Kamal Khojandi, to be held in the city of Tabriz November 24-27.

The congress is also to be attended by scholars from Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

The Tajik delegation is to visit cultural and religious centres at Mashhad (Khorassan), Shiraz (Fars) and Isfahan during its stay in Iran.

Kamal Khojandi lived in Khojand, in what is now Tajikistan in 7th century A.H. He came to reside in Tabriz during the later year of his life and breathed his last there. His book of poems comprises 14,000 couplets, IRNA reported.

Greek President Praises Iran's Vital Role in Regional Peace

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's new Ambassador to Athens Mahdi Qandagabadi on Wednesday presented his credentials to Greek President Kostas Stefanopoulos.

The Greek president in his talks with the Iranian envoy praised Iran's vital role in safeguarding regional peace and security.

Qandagabadi and Stefanopoulos also reviewed issues of mutual interest, especially those pertaining to Bosnia.

The Greek president also stressed on expansion of political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Qandagabadi had previously served as Iran's ambassador to Australia, according to an IRNA report.



SEPAH BANK

TENDER NOTICE
NO.475-2

Sepah Bank intends to sell, through tender, a three story newly constructed residential building, located on the right side of the third cul-de-sac Khayam Alley up the road from Shahid Chamran intersection on Vali-e Asr St., with all facilities including the refrigeration unit, safe room for valuables, visual inter-com, emergency power generator, covered swimming pool, sauna, air conditioning (fan coil), etc.

All potential buyers could refer to the offices of this bureau, on the 7th floor of building number 250, North Sa'di Street, across from Qaem Mosque, for inspections and obtaining the slip of conditions, until the end of Nov. 22, 1996

Bureau of Procurement

TENDER

The Cooperation Organization for Municipalities of Ilam Province intends to purchase the following nine automobiles through a tender:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Nissan Patrol (with documents of ownership) | # 7 |
| 2. Nissan Patrol (without documents of ownership, for salvage) | # 1 |
| 3. Land Rover 7-passenger capacity (without documents of ownership, for salvage) | # 1 |

Applicants can refer to the following address to receive the tender papers and conditions and also see the automobiles from 11.23.96 to 11.30.96

The Cooperation Organization for Municipalities Between Seyedolshohada and Khoramshahr Intersections, 24 Meter-wide Vali-e Asr St., Ilam.

Or call: (0841) 32477, 33624, 30012

Mehdi Soleimani
The Managing Director

Recovery in Iranian Trade

LONDON, BRITAIN (IRNA) - Iran's external trade has started to pick up again following two years of import compression, according to figures from Bank Markazi (Central Bank of Iran).

The figures show a healthy trend of fob imports reaching \$7.6 billion in the first six months of

show that the compression of imports in 1994-95 to about 46 percent below 1992-93 level, allowed Iran to increase its foreign reserves by over \$3 billion.

He said that notwithstanding the sharp compression that was made to put the country's external finances in order, the real eco-

of nearly \$1 billion in 1994-95, \$2.87 billion last year and \$1.6 billion so far in the first six months of the current Iranian year.

The increases exclude foreign assets held by commercial banks, government agencies and its instrumentalities.

With regard to rescheduled



the Iranian year (started March 21, 1996), compared to \$12.7 billion for the whole of last year.

At the same time, exports up to Sept. 21, 1996, have grown to \$111.1 billion against \$18.4 billion for the previous 12-month period, due to increases in oil and gas sales and prices.

Statistics, released by Vice Governor Ahmad Azizi at a conference in London this week, also

only "performed better than expected in 1994-95, indicating lesser degree of dependence of the Iranian economy on imports."

The growth rate in GDP did not follow the trend of imports and stayed positive showing increases of 1.6 percent and 4.5 percent respectively in the last two years, Azizi said.

He also revealed international reserves growing by increments

debts, the Central Bank vice governor said that although 1994 and 1995 was a grace period, Iran arranged for "maximum repayments to be made," including minor non-rescheduled debts.

Figures show external debts being reprofiled toward longer maturities, while dropping from \$23.1 billion in 1993-94 to \$20.4 billion on Sept. 21, 1996.

Export of Non-Metallic Products Fetches \$495m

SEMNAH (IRNA) - The overall value of non-metallic products' exports in the first half of the year (March 20-September 21) stood at \$495 million, showing a growth of 57.7 percent, deputy head of Non-Metallic Industries Department at Industries Ministry, Hussein Naji, said on Thursday.

Naji, who made the remark after inspecting several plants and industrial and production units in this northeastern province, said that the volume of export is expected to total one billion dollars by the year end (ending March 20, 1997).

He said that construction materials, tiles, ceramics, sanitary ware, plastic products, electronic and electrical instruments and garments were among major exported items.

He added that a total of 1,000 industrial and manufacturing units, over two thirds of which are active in the non-metallic industries, were annually put into operation in the course of the First Five-Year Development Plan (1989-94) and are continuing their

process during the current 2nd Plan (1994-99).

In related news, Director General of the Chemical and Cellulosic Industries Department at Industries Ministry Mahmoud Edalatyan said here on Thursday that Iran's tire output between March 20 and November 21 showed 31 percent of growth, compared to the same figure within the corresponding period

last year.

Edalatyan said that 150,000 tons of tire are scheduled to be produced in Iran by the year end.

He expressed hope that Iran's tire output would reach 180,000 tons next year (March 21, 1997-March 20, 1998).

He noted that export of tire between March and November fetched about \$60 million.

Iran Continues to Top Dubai's Trade List

ABU DHABI (IRNA) - Director General of the Dubai's Chamber of Commerce and Industries Abdur-Rahman al-Matouei said that during the past two decades Iran has continued to top the list of Dubai's trade partners.

Talking to reporters in Dubai on Wednesday he said Dubai is keen on further strengthening its trade relations with Iran which

has the biggest market in the Middle East.

Al-Matouei, terming political issues and economic relations as two separate categories, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a neighboring Muslim country and that there exist direct trade relations between Iran and Dubai.

He said over the recent years Dubai's exports to Iran have averaged one billion dollars.

Zimbabwe Welcomes Expansion of Relations with Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Zimbabwean minister of lands, agriculture and rural resettlement, Kumbirai Kangai, in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Harare, Akhund Edrisian, on Thursday, welcomed expansion of Iran-Zimbabwe relations.

The Zimbabwean minister voiced his country's readiness for

dispatch of a delegation to Tehran to confer with Iranian experts on construction of dams in Zimbabwe.

The Iranian ambassador in reply gave a complete report on Iran's capabilities in implementation of dam and telecommunication projects to the Zimbabwean minister.

Iran, Tatarstan Ink Eco-Trade Memo

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian autonomous Republic of Tatarstan here on Wednesday inked a memorandum of understanding on bilateral cooperation in the trade and economic fields.

The memorandum was signed by Tatar President Murtimer Shamiyev and Iran's Minister of Commerce Yahya Al-e Eshaq.

Al-e Eshaq took note of Tatarstan's aircraft, shipbuilding, and oil and petrochemical industries, and said that Iran will shortly set up its first ever trade center in Tatarstan Republic for promoting Iranian goods.

Shamiyev termed the outcome of his visit to Iran as "positive".

Tehran-Montevideo Cooperation in Agriculture, Forestry Discussed

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Forouzesh and visiting Uruguayan deputy minister of agriculture, Robert Rodriguez Pioli, in a meeting here on Wednesday exchanged views on cooperation between Tehran and Montevideo in the areas of agriculture and natural resources.

Forouzesh, touching on the need for full identification of the existing potential for establishment of durable cooperation, said there were suitable grounds for expansion of mutual cooperation in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and research.

He said that Iran was willing to make use of Uruguay's expertise in the forestry sector.

The Iranian minister said that Iran is ready to work out a joint program of cooperation with Uruguay in fodder, poultry farming, fisheries and processing industry spheres.

Pioli said for his part that his country was keen on expanding and diversifying agricultural and commercial ties with Iran and transfer its experience to Iran in the fields of natural resources, fisheries and animal husbandry.

Expansion of Iran, Armenia Trade Ties Discussed

TABRIZ, E. AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - In a meeting between Governor of the East Azarbaijan Province Ali Abdul Alizadeh and an Armenian delegation in the border town of Jolfa on Wednesday avenues for expansion of trade exchange between the two sides and border markets were discussed.

Abdul Alizadeh said at present about 1,000 tons of various goods are being exchanged daily between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Armenia via 'Nordouz' border point, 40 km north of Jolfa.

In order to boost the trade exchange at Nordouz and also to provide the travelers with the required facilities, the executive works of customs buildings, quarantine and houses for the customs staff have started, the governor added.

The link between Iran and Armenia is being made possible via a bridge on the river of 'Aras', which opened last year.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Your Partner in Trade 1996

Article 20

For the proper functioning of the monetary and credit system, the CBIRI, under rules to be approved by the Cabinet, is empowered on the strength of Article 19, to intervene in, and supervise, the monetary and banking activities through the following means:

(A) Fixing a minimum and/or maximum ratio of profit for banks in their joint venture and mozarebeh activities; these ratios may vary for different fields of activity.

(B) Designation of various fields for investment and partnership within the framework of the approved economic policies, and the fixing of a minimum prospective rate of profit for the various investment and partnership projects; the minimum prospective rate of profit may vary with respect to different branches of activity.

(C) Fixing a minimum and maximum margin of profit for banks in installment and hire-purchase transactions, as a proportion to the cost price of the goods transacted.

(D) Determination of types and the minimum/maximum amounts of commissions for banking services (prided that they do not exceed the expense of service rendered) and the fees charged for putting to use the deposits received by the banks.

(E) Determination of the types, amounts, minimum and maximum bonuses subject of Article 6, and the establishment of guidelines for advertisement by banks in the cases referred to.

(F) Determination of the minimum and maximum ratio in joint venture, mozarebeh, investment, hire-purchase, installment transactions, buying or selling on credit forward deals, mozara'ah, musaqat, jo'alah and interest-free loans for bank, or any of them; with respect to various fields of activity; also fixing the maximum facility that can be granted to each client.

Chapter V: Miscellaneous

Article 21

In its dealing with other banks, the CBIRI is not authorized to engage in banking operations which involve usury; nor are the banks among themselves.

Article 22

Upon authorization by the CBIRI, banks may engage in authorized banking operations with state-owned institutions, government-affiliated organizations and public corporations.

Article 23

The funds received as commissions charges and attorneyship fees shall constitute the bank's income and cannot be divided among the depositors.

Article 24

Exemption from commercial benefit tax, and/or tax exemptions granted law to factories and productive enterprises shall also apply to banks when replacing them in matters of imports or ownership.

Article 25

Consequent to the ratification of this act, all contravening laws and regulations shall be superseded, and all the powers and duties stipulated in the Monetary and Banking Act the Bill for the Administration of the Banks and the amendments thereto, which have been delegated to other authorized entities under the present act, shall be divested from the previous authorities.

Article 27

With the recommendations by the CBIRI, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance shall draw up the rules of procedure of this act and put them into effect upon their approval by the Cabinet. The drafting and approval of the rules of procedure shall not exceed a four-month period.

This act, in 27 articles and four notes, was approved by Majlis in its sitting of Tuesday, August 30, 1983 and ratified by the Guardians Council on September 1, 1983.

(To Be Continued)

(Source: Institute for Trade Studies and Research, Ministry of Commerce)

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CUS

Republic of Iran, 1996

fer to the establishment of a Palestinian state rather than simply self-determination -- the formula used in previous years.

But Ahmad Abdelrahman, secretary of the self-rule Cabinet headed by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, said he was unaware of any such move at the world body.

"I don't know anything about this," he told AFP, adding that the long-held official position of the Palestinian Authority was "that we seek self-determination and national independence through a Palestinian state."

Arafat himself said in an interview broadcast earlier yesterday on French radio that an independent Palestinian state would be declared "in two years, at the end of the interim period."

This was a reference to the 1995 Oslo Accords on autonomy under which Israel and the Palestinians are due to complete negotiations on a permanent settlement and status for Palestinian territories by May 1999.

The final status talks began symbolically in May under Israel's previous Labor government but have been suspended since Netanyahu's right-wing administration came to power in June. Netanyahu, whose government is a coalition of religious and nationalist parties, has ruled out permitting the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state with full military and diplomatic powers.

He has said his government would propose instead a broad form of autonomy but he has yet to outline his ideas more fully.

Hebron Accord Elusive After Seven Weeks of Talks

JERUSALEM - Israelis and Palestinians ended a seventh week of negotiations yesterday on extending self-rule to Hebron with no agreement in sight and a summit between the two sides looking increasingly needed to break the deadlock.

Officially, the negotiations have stalled over Israeli demands for changes in the terms for the transfer of power in the West Bank city of Hebron as outlined in the 1995 Oslo Accords on expanding Palestinian autonomy.

But leaders from both sides made clear this week that the so-called Hebron talks have evolved into negotiations on the future of the peace process itself between the reluctant right-wing Israeli government which came to power in June and a newly confident Palestinian leadership under Yasser Arafat.

The key stumbling block in the specific negotiations over Hebron is symbolic of the larger problems -- a demand by Israel for widespread powers to re-enter the 85 percent of the city to be ceded to full Palestinian control under the terms of the Oslo Accords.

Arab Israelis Rally Against Government Discrimination

JERUSALEM - Several hundred municipal employees from Arab Israeli areas, complaining they had not been paid in months, protested yesterday in Jerusalem over government discrimination against non-Jewish towns.

The demonstrators gathered outside the offices of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his weekly Cabinet meeting, shouting "Yes to equality, no to discrimination and racism."

Several scuffles broke out between protesters and police and one demonstrator was taken to hospital with minor injuries, police said.

A spokesman for the Arab municipal governments, Hussein Suleiman, accused the right-wing Netanyahu government of refusing to transfer funds to the towns promised by the previous Labor administration of Shimon Peres.

The funds were destined to help pay some \$130 million in debt accumulated by the local governments and which have forced some Arab towns to stop paying their employees.

"Forty-eight years after the creation of the state of Israel, it's time the Arabs were no longer considered enemies, foreigners, but were treated as full-fledged citizens with the same rights as Jews," said Taleb a-Sanaa, a member of parliament from the United Arab List Party.

Netanyahu met with a delegation of Arab mayors to discuss their grievances. During his election campaign early this year, Netanyahu pledged to give Arab children "the same opportunities as my own son Yair."

Israel has some 850,000 Arab citizens. Palestinians whose families refused to leave their homes when the Jewish state was created in 1948, out of a total population of 5.5 million.

For years Arab townships have complained of discriminatory treatment compared to Jewish areas ranging from less infrastructure investment, poor road upkeep and insufficient water and electricity distribution.

Palestinian Police Release HAMAS-Linked Members of PLO Parliament

GAZA CITY - Palestinian police released two officials from the a political party linked to HAMAS, who had been detained for over a week, party sources said yesterday.

Muhammed Shehab and Nizar Rayan, both members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the PLO's parliament, were arrested in the Gaza Strip 10 days ago for "HAMAS activities", a party official told AFP.

They were released Thursday night, the official said.

Rayan sat next to Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat yesterday during weekly prayers in Agha Mosque in Gaza City, alongside Sheikh Ahmed Bahar, a high official in the Khalas Party and former HAMAS leader, an AFP correspondent said.

Snehab and Rayan represented the National Islamic Salvation (Khalas) Party, which includes many former members of HAMAS, at the PNC's first session on Palestinian soil, held in Gaza City last March and attended by Arafat.

Israel to Build 900 More Settler Homes on Disputed Golan Heights

JERUSALEM - Israel's right-wing government will build 900 new homes on the annexed Golan Heights next year, an official said yesterday in a sharp rebuff to Syrian demands for the return of the strategic plateau.

A spokesman for the Infrastructure Ministry headed by hard-liner Ariel Sharon said the homes would be added to existing settlements on the Golan.

But a reporter for the Yediot Aharanot newspaper who has seen the ministry's plans say it involves building 900 luxury homes well away from existing communities on the western slopes of the Golan Heights overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

Some 16,000 Israelis have settled on the Golan Heights since the territory was captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East War. Israel annexed the Heights in 1981.

Israel's previous Labor government launched negotiations with Syria late last year on the basis of returning much of the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace between the two countries.

State Department Mum on Proposed Israeli-Syrian Summit

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - The State Department distanced itself Thursday from a proposal by U.S. Senator Arlen Specter that an Israeli-Syrian summit be convened in Washington.

Specter told reporters in Jerusalem that he will ask President Bill Clinton to convene the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad.

"This is a mission that Senator Specter is engaged in on his own. It's not a mission that he is on behalf of the United States government," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said.

Asked about the proposal of a summit, Davies said U.S. officials would wait until Specter returns to Washington to discuss the results of his visit to the Middle East.

"Perhaps we can have a talk with him and decide what progress, if any, he's made, and take it from there," he commented.

MUSAVAN

feared to become unbridled."

The full text of the statement follows:

"Notwithstanding the excitement, one should bear in mind that ties between Iran and Germany are based on an ancient tradition whose foundations have been laid by the two countries in trying times.

Anyone who intends to insti-

gate the two countries against each other should know that the Iranians have paid a very heavy price during World War II to preserve these ties.

For long, the Iranian people tolerated occupation, suffering, and hunger for their love and affection for the German people, a love and affection which is imperilled nowadays and might turn to a completely opposite feeling.

Anyone who intends to sever the two countries' relations with whatever motivation should realize that after World War II, hundreds of thousands of Iranians have studied at German universities and that many educated Irani-

ans respect the German culture and even teach it to others. Those who are fanning the flames of such animosity are not aware of the havoc they would wreak.

The federal prosecutor, full of arrogance, is staging opposition against a Shia institution which dates back to more than 1,000 years. This move might spark a reaction that would devastate the two nations' affection and solidarity which has developed over a century in the wake of painful experiences.

Following the careless statements made by the federal prosecutor, Germany, which has always strived to reach understanding with the Muslim nations and which has a good reputation in this part of the world, is on the verge of being accused of hostility with Islam.

By leveling accusations at the highest religious authority of the Shia Muslims, the federal prosecutor has actually accused all his followers. In fact, his statements are beneficial for those who have for years cherished the intention of sowing discord between the people of Iran and Germany.

It would be a catastrophic mistake to fall prey to those who, in the final stage of the Mykonos case, created witness C who was the product of the security organizations. But their joy and happiness was transient: We will soon inform the German public opinion of the true nature of this witness.

In the past, too, German Foreign Minister Kinkel and his predecessor Hans Dietrich Genscher curbed hostile foreign intervention in the two countries' relations. With his calm and confident policy, the German chancellor favorably directed the ties even under difficult circumstances.

To remove any misunderstanding, I once again stress that my government categorically denies any political involvement in the court procedure and the assassination.

From the onset, Iran did not seek to interfere in the issue and rather wanted to clear up the case. There was sufficient evidence to prove that before the Mykonos assassination, the Kurds had fought a battle for power.

Iranian Kurds accused those who have been killed of massacre and torture of the Kurds. No inter-mediator in Germany took the trouble to see to the complaints lodged by these Kurds.

No one even listened to the call of Iran for cooperation in unearthing the truth about the event: nonetheless, the federal prosecutor feels free to make claims based on statements put forward by his witnesses who lack any credit and credibility. In fact, these claims are about to destroy the cordial relations between Iran and Germany.

This view is cherished not only by the Iranian government but

WEATHER

Tehran Temperature	
Maximum	16°C
Minimum	+07°C
Partly cloudy with wind	
Temperature extremes till noon today	
High: Minab	28°C
Low: Khalkhal	-06°C
Temperature in some major cities of the world on Nov. 21, 1996	
Paris	06°C
Kuwait	22°C
Riyadh	21°C
Moscow	08°C
London	06°C
Rome	16°C
Abu Dhabi	28°C
Madrid	15°C

also by many German lawyers who have informed me in person or through letters over the past several days.

They also note that the federal prosecutor by making political statements has gone beyond his zone of authority, as such matters are related to Germany's foreign policy.

In addition, with his accusing statements, the federal prosecutor has adversely affected the interests of the two countries.

As a result, Iran's Embassy in Germany intends to lodge a complaint against the federal prosecutors with the German or international court following comprehensive consultations with legal experts.

The government of Iran is seeking a legal solution and rejects any kind of coercion and interference in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Over the past several days, the Iranian people have out of rightful anger said many things through the press and/or the demonstrations. Here again one should make a differentiation.

While fully respecting the public opinion and statements published in the press, I would like to stress that the policy of the Iranian government will be declared by its spokesmen.

There is no need to stress again that the Iranian government feels committed to observe international law without any limitation or reservation. In return, Iran expects all countries to respect the values and beliefs of other nations.

The government of Iran will not tolerate any word or deed that would hurt the religious sentiments of the people."

ties," the President said.

"This shows how hard the Satanic elements are at work to turn our cooperation with Germany into a dispute," he said.

President Rafsanjani sought to free Bonn from blame, acknowledging for the first time that the German government and the Berlin court had "two separate accounts."

"We do not have a strong evidence showing the German government agrees with the charges. The majority in Bonn do not want any problem. We know this is not their policy," Rafsanjani said.

"Our evaluation is that the account of the German government is separate from that of the court," he said.

The President said Iran did not intend to interfere in the proceedings of the Berlin court, but accused the German prosecutors of committing "blackmail and distortion."

"One of our criticisms is that they used a criminal and a plane hijacker as a witness," he said, referring to former Iranian President Abolhasan Banisadr, whose testimony led to the charges against Iranian leaders.

"I would have liked to see that

the prosecutors pay attention to the consequences of their act," Rafsanjani said, charging that the German judges were "knowingly or unknowingly" under the "bad influences" of Israel and the United States.

IRANIAN

Nateq-Nouri and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev reviewed bilateral ties during their meeting.

Nateq-Nouri in his meeting with Kazakh Parliament Speaker Murad Ospanov discussed further promotion of Tehran-Almaty ties in general and parliamentary affairs in particular.

Meanwhile, in a ceremony held on Thursday morning, the Science Academy of Kazakhstan conferred an honorary degree on the Speaker.

Speaker Back Home Respect for President

Meanwhile, Nateq-Nouri will reschedule his three-nation tour and return home tonight to attend the Majlis session tomorrow, an official close to the Iranian delegation here told IRAN NEWS.

He said, "Mr. Nateq-Nouri, to show respect to Mr. Rafsanjani, has rescheduled the plan of his visit to India and will attend the Sunday open session of the Majlis."

Rafsanjani will go to the Majlis tomorrow to present next year's budget to the Speaker.

Traditionally, the President presents the annual budget to the Speaker every year, before it is put for debate by the lawmakers.

On Monday, Nateq-Nouri will continue his three-nation tour and fly to India. He has already visited Kazakhstan and is currently in Turkmenistan.

DEMOCRATS

United States, who gave the money, causing the Democrats to give it back.

It is legal for resident aliens to contribute money, but not foreigners under U.S. campaign law.

Hou thinks that Huang's role in this has been overplayed, noting that the Kanefanlak family had contributed about \$11,000 to the Democrats in 1992, long before Huang came on the scene.

He said the money was given because "they are interested in women's and Pacific-Asian affairs and believe the Democrats do a better job in these areas."

"It was her own money and she chose to give it. It was perfectly legal," Hou said, complaining that Asians are being singled out because of the questions raised by the Republicans about Huang's success at raising money.

"They don't treat Greeks or Greek-Americans the same way," Hou said.

The DNC has now refunded over \$1 million in questionable contributions because of the controversy which has led to investigations by the Justice Department and possibly to congressional hearings that may begin in January.

Rafsanjani also said he planned to answer Kohl's letter, seeking to assure that neither his government nor the German judicial authorities intended to offend the Iranian peoples' religious feelings or its spiritual leadership.

Now tackling the issue has shifted from public protest to responses and measures by top officials of the two countries. And both nations should wait with full confidence that something constructive will come out and the enemies will not be able to exploit the situation.

Pressure Mounts on Kremlin Chief of Staff Over Sleaze Allegations

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - The Russian parliament called for the suspension of Kremlin Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais yesterday as the prosecutor general opened a criminal probe into high-level corruption.

In the State Duma, the Lower House of Parliament, deputies voted overwhelmingly to call for the resignations of Chubais and First Deputy Premier Viktor Ilyushin, also implicated in an alleged scandal over campaign funds during President Boris Yeltsin's reelection in June-July.

"Given that an inquiry on financial misdeeds has been opened by the prosecutor general and that Anatoly Chubais and Viktor Ilyushin are named in this inquiry, the commission wishes that they be temporary relieved of their functions," said Communist Deputy Viktor Ilyukhin.



CHUBAIS

Yeltsin to Return to Kremlin in 2-3 Weeks

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin will return to work at the Kremlin in two to three weeks, earlier than expected, after recovering from heart surgery, the head Kremlin doctor Sergei Mirovov said yesterday.

Yeltsin, 65, will return in "two, maybe three weeks," he told reporters.

The president, who underwent

quintuple heart bypass surgery on November 5, will return in mid-December, not the end of December or the start of January as earlier expected.

Yesterday, he was discharged from the central clinical hospital and left for the Sanatorium at Barvikha just outside Moscow, where he had stayed before his operation.

Force Can Be Only Deployed with Rwanda, Zaire Agreement



MOI

NAIROBI, KENYA (AFP) - A multinational force proposed to help refugees in eastern Zaire should only be deployed in the Great Lakes region if both Rwanda and Zaire consent, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said here.

Addressing Kenyans on Thursday shortly after returning from an overseas visit, Moi said it was important that the size of the force to be deployed in the Great Lakes region be reviewed owing to changing circumstances on the

ground.

"When the idea of the peacekeeping force was mooted, the situation was at that time worse than it is presently," a statement released by the Presidential Press Service (PPS) yesterday quoted Moi as saying.

Relief agencies say that more than half a million refugees have returned to Rwanda since last yesterday, while a similar number of more remains in Zaire.

Representatives from some 40 countries and organizations began meeting in Germany yesterday to plan possible options for military support to a proposed international force to help the refugees.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Goma, Zaire that Zairean rebels yesterday transported Rwandan refugees who had come down from forested hills in the eastern Goma region and dropped them off at the nearby Rwandan border to be repatriated.

The refugees were brought by lorry down a road which rebels closed off to traffic on Thursday as they battled armed Rwandan Hutu militia and members of the Rwandan former army in the region.

Saudi Arabia Establishes Embassy in South Africa

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA (AFP) - Saudi Arabia has established an embassy in South Africa for the first time, as links between the two countries grow in the post-apartheid era. Charge d'Affaires Sami Zeidan said yesterday.

The embassy is currently operating from Pretoria's Holiday Inn

Crown Plaza Hotel but plans to move to permanent offices early next year, Zeidan said. An ambassador is likely to be appointed during the course of 1997.

"This is the first time we have had representation here," Zeidan said.

Chirac Leaves Japan for France

FUKUOKA, JAPAN (AFP) - French President Jacques Chirac left here yesterday for Paris at the end of a six-day trip to Japan.

Chirac arrived in this southern city Thursday as part of a private segment of his trip to watch a Sumo wrestling tournament. He also met French expatriates living here and visited a temple and an historical site.

During his official visit to Tokyo he held talks with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and emphasized the role France and Europe should play in Asia.

The visit highlighted the rivalry between the United States and Europe in Asian markets just ahead of the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum ministerial meeting starting

in Manila yesterday.

Throughout his visit, Chirac actively promoted European interests, not hesitating to denounce certain trade and investment practices of the United States which is resented in Europe as much as in Japan.

Addressing the powerful Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the French president castigated "the aberrant situation with the dollar" along with U.S. sanctions against countries trading with Cuba and Iran.

He also appealed for a balanced relationship between Europe, Asia and America, noting that the European Union was poised to become the world's biggest economic power with 350 million inhabitants and a single currency.

Bomb Blast in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) - At least one person was killed and 12 others injured in a car bomb blast yesterday in the Kashmir summer capital of Srinagar, police said.

A civilian died in the midday explosion near the state police headquarters in Srinagar's central Batmaloo district, a police spokesman said.

Doctors said five police personnel and seven civilians were injured, revising earlier casualty figures provided by police and

witnesses.

The dominant Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen rebel group accepted responsibility for the attack, which followed a similar blast which claimed two lives outside a building housing top state politicians in Srinagar.

"The attack is an answer to Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah's 30-day ultimatum to militants to surrender," the Tehreek said in a statement in Srinagar.

Sri Lanka Bombs Tiger Targets, Rebels Kill Officer

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - Helicopter gunships and bomber aircraft pounded suspected Tamil rebel targets in eastern Sri Lanka as the rebels ambushed an army jeep, killing an officer, defense sources here said yesterday.

Air force MI-24 attack heli-

copters bombed positions of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) near Karadiyannaru in the district of Batticaloa on Thursday evening, the sources said.

"Heavy damage was inflicted on the Tigers," a defense official

said. "The Tigers too, retaliated with machine guns and slightly damaged one of the gunships but security forces suffered no casualties."

There were no immediate reports of casualties among the rebels.

Three Leftist Guerrilla Sympathizers Briefly Detained Ahead of APEC

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (AFP) - Philippine police raided several houses of suspected Communist guerrilla sympathizers near the site of Monday's Asia-Pacific Economic Summit and briefly detained three people, police said yesterday.

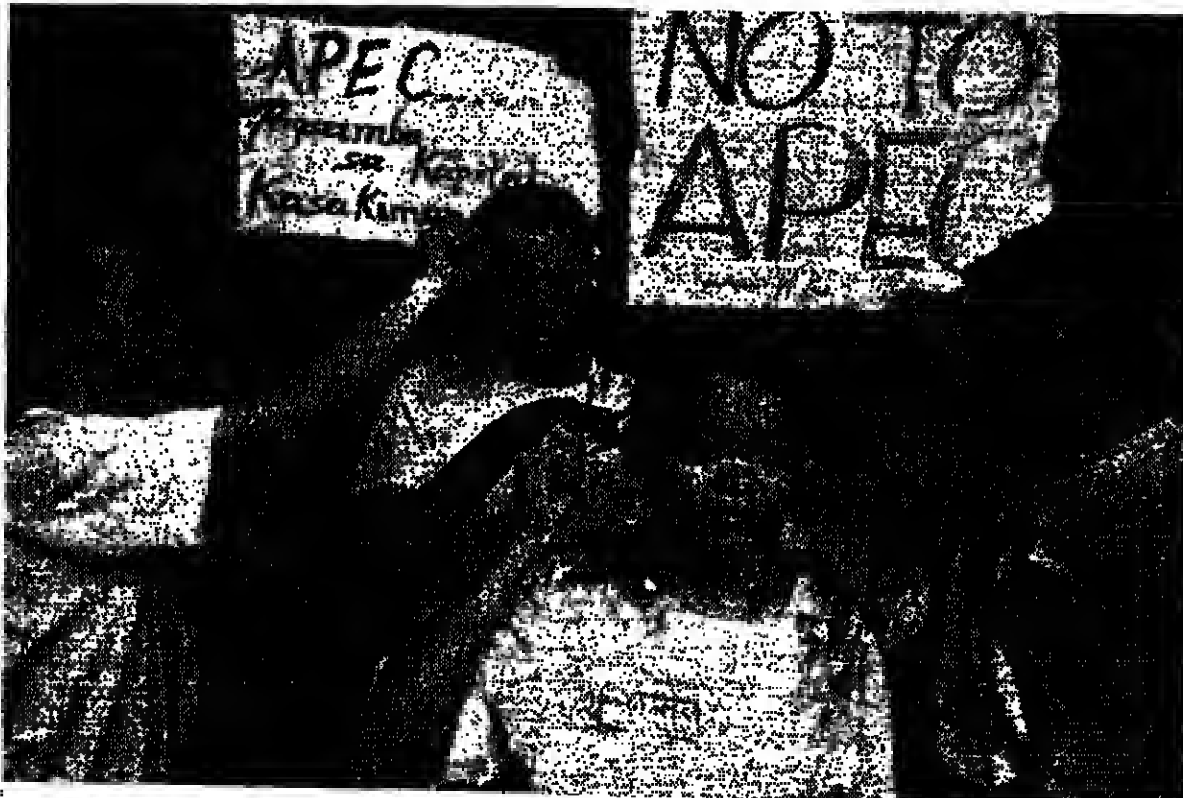
Thursday's raids in the towns of Orani and Oroquieta turned up a

quantity of dynamite and 10 rounds of bullets for assault rifles in two houses, senior police officer Alejandro Aucina of the provincial police command said.

The raids came ahead of a summit Monday of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that will include

President Bill Clinton, scheduled to land here today.

The three detained men, all suspected of being sympathizers of the insurgent New People's Army (NPA), were freed on the same day after the government decided not to press charges, the officer told AFP by telephone.



MANILA, PHILIPPINES: Jesusa Revite (2nd R) and three other activists cut their hair during a protest action held in front of a Protestant church in the center of Manila Nov. 20 to show their opposition to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit due to be held Nov. 25. (AFP Photo)



EKEUS

Iraq Prevents U.N. from Removing Scud Parts

DUBAI, U.A.E. (AFP) - U.N. disarmament Chief Rolf Ekeus said that Iraq prevented his teams last week from removing Scud missile parts which Baghdad promised to have destroyed, according to a newspaper interview Thursday.

"Tareq Aziz (Iraqi deputy prime minister) blocked our team as they were trying to transport the missile parts to our center in Baghdad after digging them out of the ground," Ekeus was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with Gulf Today.

"Aziz said Iraq understood that the U.N. was planning to take these parts out of Iraq, which we were. What followed was a rather unpleasant exchange," said Ekeus, chairman of United Nations Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM).

Ekeus, who was due to arrive in Kuwait yesterday in the first stop on a Persian Gulf tour, said he sent a letter of protest to Baghdad and passed a copy on to the president of the U.N. Security Council, "pointing out that Iraq had violated its obligations under Security Council Resolution 687."

The resolution, Ekeus added, calls for on Iraq to yield possession of any weapons of mass destruction for removal as well as rendering them harmless.

UNSCOM planned to take the transport the Scud missile parts to a laboratory in the United States to try to determine the number of missiles that were destroyed and whether Iraq still possessed these weapons, which are prohibited by the U.N. sanctions.

Russian-Chechen Talks Held

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russian Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkov met with Chechen leaders yesterday to make final preparations for a long-awaited meeting between the Russian and Chechen premiers, Interfax reported.

Rybkov, Moscow's head negotiator, planned to "complete preparations for the visit of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the head of the (Chechen) coalition government Aslan Maskhadov," a source close to Rybkov told Interfax.

The two premiers are expected to sign a wide-ranging accord on Russian economic assistance to Chechnya, which is in ruins and poverty stricken after the 21-month war.

Earlier, Itar-Tass news agency said that the Chechens meeting Rybkov were Security Adviser Akhmed Zakayev and First Deputy Premier Movladi Udugov. The meeting took place in the autonomous Republic of Ingushetia, which neighbors Chechnya.

Stray Dogs Save Abandoned Baby

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA (AFP) - Three stray dogs saved a new-born baby abandoned in a Bucharest park, keeping it warm, licking it and barking until police showed up, a newspaper said yesterday.

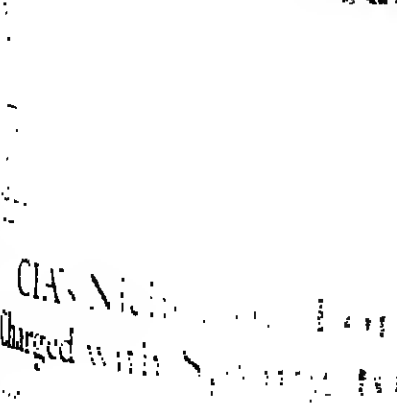
Police took the baby boy to a hospital where doctors said he was in perfect shape.

One of the policeman who came to the rescue adopted the child and named him Constantinescu, after Romania's new president, Emil Constantinescu. The head of state turned 57 on Tuesday, the day the baby was born.

IRAN
Taliban Strong
Jet in Northeast



North Korean Fishing
Boats into South Korean



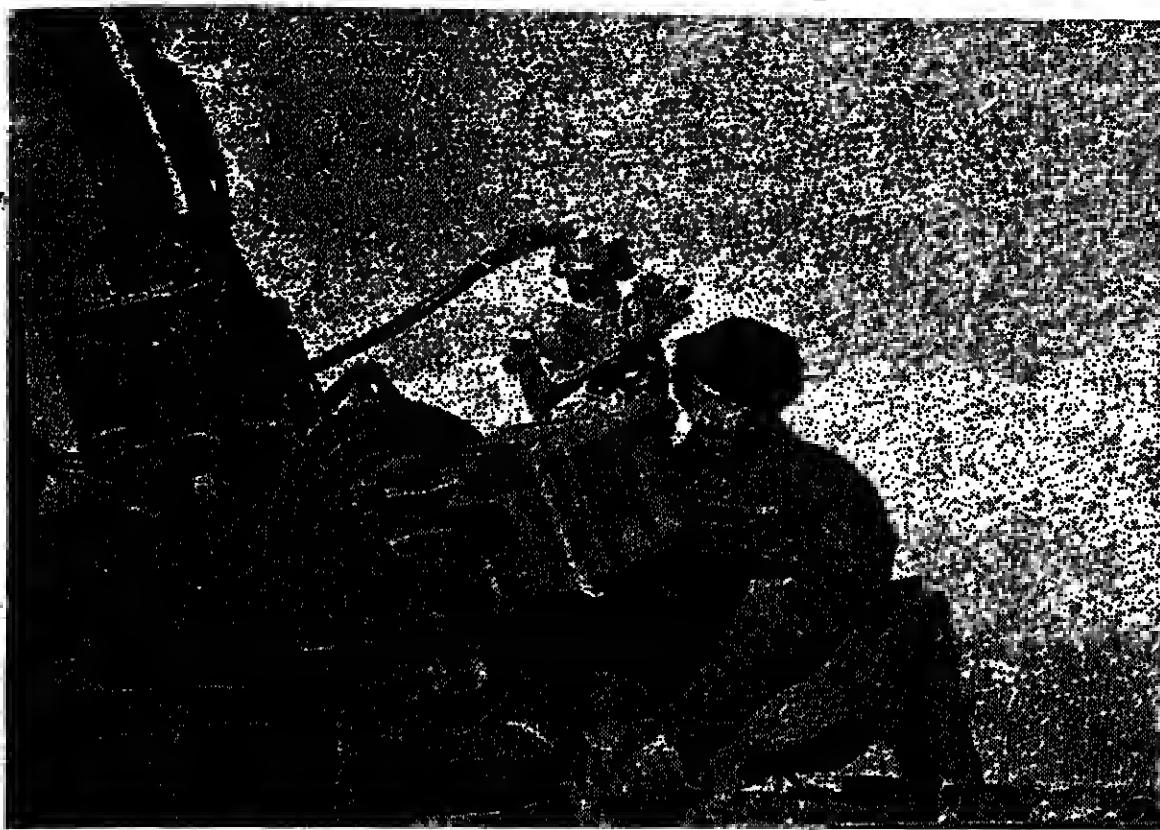
China's New...
Charged with...



Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مكتبة الأمل"

IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Taliban Stinger Downs Dostam Jet in Northeastern Afghanistan



KABUL, AFGHANISTAN: A Taliban gunman aims an anti-aircraft canon on the back of a truck passing in front of snow-covered mountains Nov. 20 on the front line, some 30 kms north of the capital. The front lines were mostly quiet as fighters were preparing themselves to affront the coming cold weather following the first snowfall of the winter Nov. 19.

(AFP Photo)

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (Dispatches) - The Taliban militia yesterday shot down a jet belonging to Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam as fighting flared up between the two forces in the northwestern Afghan province of Badghis, Taliban officials said.

The Islamic militia brought down the jet with the help of a Stinger missile while it was bombing their positions in Morghab district in Badghis, a Taliban spokesman told the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

No independent confirmation of the Taliban claim was immediately available.

AP reported from Kabul that numerous explosions and the vicious rattle of machine guns shook the front line north of Kabul yesterday as troops loyal to northern warlord Rashid Dostam mounted an attack and the Taliban responded with heavy rocket fire.

The two-pronged assault started early yesterday and throughout the day heavy artillery fire could be heard, but it doesn't appear either side lost ground.

"We are not equipped for winter fighting and that's why our enemy is constantly attacking," said Zamia Mula Kahar, a Taliban commander at an observation

post. "They are trying to keep us busy."

Behind him, a powerful multi-barrel rocket launcher was spitting rockets into the clear blue winter sky. The impact of the rockets sent clouds of smoke and dust billowing skyward.

Fighting has persisted for weeks on the front line, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of the war-torn capital, while the United Nations tries to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

Another round of peace talks between the Taliban and the four-party alliance arrayed against them is scheduled to begin in early December.

North Korean Fishing Boat Drifts into South Korean Waters

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - A North Korean fishing boat with a sole crewman aboard drifted into South Korean waters with mechanical trouble near the port of Incheon on the country's west coast yesterday, television reports said.

Officials in Seoul were unable to immediately confirm the report by Yonhap Television News (YTN), which quoted Incheon marine police as saying the young fisherman had threatened to jump overboard if his boat was boarded.

CIA's Nicholson Formally Charged with Spying for Russia

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, U.S.A. (AFP) - A U.S. grand jury Thursday decided there was sufficient evidence to detain and prosecute CIA agent Harold Nicholson for spying for Russia, the Justice Department said Thursday.

Nicholson now stands formally accused of "conspiracy to commit espionage," by passing

top-secret U.S. intelligence information to Russia.

"The indictment alleges that from June 1994 through November 16, 1996 Nicholson delivered to the Russian Federation documents, photographic negatives and information relating to the national defense of the United States," the Justice Department said in a statement.

British Airways 747 in Missile Error over Turkey

LONDON, BRITAIN (AFP) - A missile exploded 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) beneath a British Airways Jumbo jet flying over Turkey after a computer mistake by the airline sent the plane close to a banned military area, BA said yesterday.

The Boeing 747 Flight, from Islamabad, Pakistan, to Manchester, should have diverted around a military firing area near Istanbul in Turkey.

But no diversion warning was fed into the flight plan.

Pakistan's Nobel Laureate Spent His Life in Virtual Self-Exile

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Pakistan's only Nobel laureate, Abdul Salam, died in virtual self-exile in Loodoo because of hostility towards his minority Ahmadya community, his family here said yesterday.

The body of Salam, 70, who died early Thursday after losing a battle with Parkinson's Disease, will be taken Sunday to the Punjab town of Rabwah, headquarters of the Ahmadya family sources said. His funeral will be held on Monday.

300 Burundi Refugees Massacred in Church

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (AFP) - Some 300 Burundis who were among the first wave of refugees returning from eastern Zaire, were massacred in a church in western Burundi on October 22, a UNHCR spokeswoman said here yesterday.

They had returned voluntarily to Mirambi in Cibitoke Province and had spent the night in the church, Christiane Berthiaume of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated.

The identity of the killers was not known, Berthiaume said, but Burundi is wracked by a civil war between the army, dominated by the minority Tutsis, and Hutu rebels, who have been accused of launching attacks into their country from Zaire.

More than 50,000 Burundian

Hutu refugees have returned to their homeland since mainly Tutsi Zairean rebels launched an uprising in eastern Zaire last month and went on to capture the key towns of Uvira, Bukavu and Goma, which were all hubs for refugee camps.

In June, three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were murdered in the province, provoking the aid agency to pull out. It had been the only organization to remain in place.

A ten-truck convoy, the UNHCR's third since Saturday, was due to leave for Cibitoke Province yesterday carrying 150 tons of non-food items, Berthiaume said. Some 30,000 of the returning refugees went to that region.

U.S. Housing Secretary Announces Resignation

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros announced his resignation Thursday, the latest administration official to say he will not serve during President Bill Clinton's second term.

"Though I would like to help build on the progress we have made on issues ranging from housing for the mentally ill homeless to the transformation of public housing ... I have concluded that I cannot ask to be considered for service in the next four years," Cisneros said in letter to Clinton.

Secretary of State Warren

Christopher, Trade Secretary Mickey Kantor and Labor Secretary Robert Reich resigned earlier and Pentagon officials indicated Defense Secretary William Perry will follow suit.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin is the only official who has said he wants to stay in the administration, though Attorney General Janet Reno is also expected to want to keep her post.

Before leaving on a trip to Asia, Clinton said yesterday the process for replacing the slew of resigning Cabinet members was on schedule.

Twenty Dead, 80 Injured in Puerto Rico Explosion

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (AFP) - Rescue crews were to resume the search for victims yesterday among the rubble of a six-story building leveled by an explosion that killed 20 people and injured at least 80 others.

Most of the victims in the Thursday morning blast, apparently caused by a gas leak, were inside a shopping center on the

ground floor of the building in the San Juan suburb of Rio Piedras, police said.

Shortly after the explosion, U.S. President Bill Clinton issued a statement from Port Douglas, Australia, proclaiming a situation of emergency in Puerto Rico, enabling the Federal Emergency Management Agency to go to San Juan and make a first assessment of the situation.

Bruton Says Hopes for Fresh IRA Cease-fire

VIENNA, AUSTRIA (Reuters) - Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said yesterday he hoped the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was concluding an internal debate to end its policy of violence and agree a new cease-fire in Northern Ireland.

"They have gone through extensive internal debates with a view to changing their policy," Bruton told reporters before bolding talks with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

"I hope that this debate is coming to a conclusion and that we will be able to have a cease-fire that on this occasion will hold in all circumstances," he added.

Bruton, whose country holds the presidency of the European Union, is on a swing through European capitals ahead of an EU summit in Ireland next month.

He declined to put any time-scale on a possible fresh truce, or comment on the discovery of



Thursday of a 600-lb (250-kg) car bomb in a heavily-populated part of Londonderry planned by a Republican splinter group.

"I am not making any predictions as to when this will happen," he said.

Bruton was speaking a day after the leader of Northern Ireland's moderate Nationalist Social Democratic and Labor Party, John Hume, said he believed the IRA was ready to renew the cease-fire it abandoned in February if Britain agreed to proposals he put forward.

The World at a Glance



BELGRADE - About 2,000 students demonstrated yesterday in Belgrade denouncing the cancellation of election results which showed opposition parties making strong gains.

MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE - Mozambique's former Education Minister Graca Machel has rejected proposals she should stand as candidate for the post of United Nations secretary-general.

CALCUTTA, INDIA - Nobel peace laureate Mother Teresa was admitted to hospital early yesterday following chest pains.

HOBART, AUSTRALIA - A judge jailed laughing gunman Martin Bryant for life yesterday for killing 35 people in a shooting spree at a Tasmania tourist spot, describing him as a "pathetic social misfit."

NEW DELHI, INDIA - The second leg of the world's largest public health program kicks off in India on December 7 when 120 million children below five will be vaccinated against polio, officials said yesterday.

WARSAW, POLAND - A bomb containing nails and pieces of metal exploded in central Warsaw, wounding seven people, police said yesterday.

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - Two teenagers charged with the murder of a newborn child allegedly left in a garbage can shortly after its birth, could face the death penalty, police said Thursday.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - A powerful homemade bomb was found at a swimming bath in Saint Petersburg on Thursday and was defused by federal bomb experts.

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - Defense Secretary William Perry departs next week on a round-the-world trip that will take him to Italy, Bosnia, the Persian Gulf and Japan, the Pentagon announced yesterday.

NEW DELHI, INDIA - The new chief of India's Congress (I) yesterday socked three lieutenants of former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao in a bid to oust the scandal-hit former leader from the dominant party.

(DISPATCHES)

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Weah-Costa Incident Prompts a Hearing
 AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - UEFA said on Friday it had called a special disciplinary hearing next week on the scuffle involving AC Milan's George Weah after Wednesday's Champions' League match. Porto defender Jorge Costa suffered a broken nose in the incident which took place in the player's tunnel at the end of an ill-tempered match.
 The 30-year-old Weah, hailed by FIFA as a model of fair play, could face a lengthy suspension if European soccer's governing body found he had attacked Costa in the post-match clash.

Sports Highlights

Bulls 110, Nuggets 92

DENVER, COLORADO (AFP) - Michael Jordan scored 31 points, including 13 in a take-charge second quarter, and Chicago remained the NBA's only unbeaten team by routing Denver.

The Bulls, 12-0 and only three games shy of equaling the NBA record for victories to open a season, shot 49 percent compared to Denver's 35 percent and never were threatened after a 21-6 run gave them a 20-point lead late in the third quarter.

Scottie Pippen added 16 points and Toni Kukoc 12 for the Bulls. Ron Harper and Jason Caffey had 11 each.

Bryant Stith led the Nuggets with 20 points.

Jazz 109, Warriors 104, OT

At Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 33 points, including a basket at the buzzer to send the game into overtime and four points in the extra period, as Utah defeated Golden State.

Jeff Hornacek scored a season-high 30 points, four in overtime, and John Stockton added 12 points and 15 assists.

The Jazz allowed an opponent to score more than 100 points for the first time this season.

Latrell Sprewell led Golden State with 32 points, including five in overtime.

Shearer Back to Boost Newcastle Title Charge

LONDON (AFP) - Alan Shearer has been given the go-ahead to make his Newcastle comeback against Chelsea on Saturday as Kevin Keegan's Premiership pacesetters bid to extend their lead at the top of the table.

The England skipper came through midweek training sessions and will go straight into the starting line-up for the eagerly-awaited top-of-the-table clash at Stamford Bridge, just one month after his groin operation.

"He's not suffered any reaction. There's no soreness and he's as fit as a fiddle. He's ok for Saturday," says Newcastle spokesman Graham Courtney.

Shearer had his first full Newcastle training session on Tuesday morning a few hours before the UEFA Cup third round first leg 1-1 draw at French club Metz.

Shearer's return is a timely one for the Premiership leaders with strike partner Les Ferdinand several weeks away from a return to first team action.

Ferdinand suffered a depressed cheekbone in last weekend's home draw with west ham and is recovering from an operation which successfully repaired the damage.

John Beresford, who suffered a pulled calf muscle in Metz, will miss the Chelsea game but his injury is not as bad as first feared.

Chelsea are the subject of rumors that the arrival of so many top foreigners since Ruud Gullit took over in the summer could lead to the mass departure of their longer-serving players, who are said to be unhappy at their new life in the reserves.

And on Thursday, John Spencer, who had a bust-up with Gullit earlier in the season, left for West London neighbors QPR in a \$4 million deal.

Whether Spencer's departure will spark a mass exodus is unclear but Gullit is currently facing a difficult transitional period as the ambitious club bids to transform itself into a major power in English football.



AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS: AJ Auxerre's Eric Assati (L) fights for the ball with Ajax Amsterdam's Tijani Babangida (R), late November 20 in Amsterdam, during their European Champions League match.

(AFP Photo)

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

Hungry Feyenoord Wait for Depleted Ajax

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) - Ajax Amsterdam, struggling to keep in touch with the Dutch First Division pacemakers, go into Sunday's clash with Feyenoord with over half the first-team missing and morale ebbing away. Coach Louis Van Gaal will be without the bedrock of his defense, with skipper Danny Blind recovering from a groin operation and Frank de Boer nursing a damaged left ankle. Brazilian World Cup-winning defender Santos is out of favor but may be drafted back into the side after being suspended for Wednesday's 2-1 home defeat by Auxerre in the champions' league. Right-back John Veldman will struggle to find a place.

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'Maldini of Iran' Eyes for Success

IRAN NEWS SPORTS DESK

TEHRAN - Pirouzi soccer club's international left-back Reza Shahroudi predicts Iran's national team's presence in the finals of the 11th Asian Championship which is to be held in the U.A.E. in December.

Shahroudi, nicknamed as "Maldini of Iran" due to his similar style to renowned Italian left-back Paolo Maldini, said Iran can reach the finals of the Asian Championship if it has enough warm-up matches.

In an interview with IRAN NEWS, Shahroudi said: "Pirouzi club proved Iran's soccer during the Asian Clubs Championship quarterfinals which was currently held in Doha, Qatar. We stayed top among our Arab rivals. Now it is time to show our capability, talent and power in the U.A.E. All present all players in the training camp are in good condition and we only need some warm-up matches."

Shahroudi, one of Pirouzi's best players in Doha, has received some good offers from Arab countries as well as a German club and after the Asian Championship he may leave Pirouzi. His free-kick against Al-Zawra' of Iraq helped Pirouzi achieve a sweet victory.

On the situation of sports and mainly soccer in the country, he said: "Our sports officials should create a development in sports and lead them to professionalism. Of course, good management will be crucial, as well."

Shahroudi was born in 1972 in Tehran. He began his career with Afshin club and before joining Pirouzi, he played for Towhid, Sanat-o Maadai and Keshavarz clubs.



SHAHROUDI

He owes his achievement to his coaches like Khosrow Fallah, Reza Kalantari, Naveb Rou'inpour, Ali Parvin, Sianko, Juergen Gede, Hassan Habibi, Bijan Zolfaghar Nasab, Vali Saleh Nia, Parviz Komasi and Mehdi Monajati.

Pakistan's 36-Run Lead Against Kiwis

LAHORE, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Pakistan scored 191 in their first innings securing a lead of 36 runs over New Zealand on the second day of their first test here Friday.

Resuming at overnight 52-5 Pakistan were all out shortly after lunch interval.

Wicketkeeper Moeen Khan hammered a polished 59, the highest in this test so far, to steer the home side past the New Zealand's first innings total of 155.

Moeen Khan's heroic knock of 59

terminated when Justin Vaughan trapped him leg before wicket.

Waqar Yunis who made 2 fell in a similar fashion to Vaughan who also trapped Saqlain Mushtaq on 23. Pakistani tailenders Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid Nazeer added useful 27 runs before Mushtaq edged Vaughan's delivery in to the safe hands of captain Lee Gernon.

Simon Doull in his devastating spell of 16 overs captured five for 46 while Justin Vaughan took four Pakistani wickets for 27.

Zaireans Face Final Challenge

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - A new chapter in the fairytale rise of Zairean side Sodigraf will begin on Sunday when they contest the African Cup-Winners Cup final.

While the Kinshasa club reached the decider only six years after being formed, opponents Arah contractors have a long, proud tradition in the competition.

After lifting the trophy in 1982, the Egyptians became the first team to successfully defend it, and reached the semi-finals and the quarter-finals in later appearances.

Kanonyota stadium, a recently completed, 80,000-seat concrete bowl in the heart of the Zairean capital, is the scene for the first leg with the return match at the Nasser Stadium in Cairo in December.

Contractors are favored to collect a cup named after South African President Nelson Mandela, but Sodigraf boast impressive credentials with an unbeaten record and a 14-1 goal tally.

Pencil-slim forward Tondelua Nbulina has struck nine of the goals, including five in one match against Namibians MP Tigers, and is the leading cup-winners scorer.

Other highly rated players include goalkeeper Babale Nzamangini, defender Kisombe Mundaba, midfielders Mbayo Kibemba and Mukwa Hongeyi, and forward Tshibanda Tshibangu.

Technical director Lusadisu Basilwa took charge of Zaire during the 1996 African Nations Cup in South Africa after the German coach stormed out in protest at a government minister choosing the team.

Basilwa has seen his team maul the Tigers before conquering Nigerian giant-killers Katsina United and Algerians CR Belouizdad after much closer contests.

He is unconcerned about Contractors, saying he has a young squad who are not scared of any side, and believes they can emulate the feats of Tont Puissant Mazembe and daring club Motema Pembe.

Mazembe had three goals to spare over Africa sports from the Ivory Coast in the 1980 final and Motema Pembe defeated Kenyan Breweries two years ago to become the second holders from Zaire.

مکتبہ الفضل

Germany Plans to Quit UNIDO Due to Budget Cuts

BONN (Reuters) - Germany, officially a strong supporter of the United Nations, plans to pull out of the world body's industrial development agency UNIDO because of deep budget cuts in Bonn.

Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger said on Thursday that shortfalls in his 1997 budget had forced him to opt for withdrawal, the first time Bonn would quit a U.N. agency.

"We don't need UNIDO," he told the radio station Inforadio. "It gets lost in projects that others can do or we could do better on a bilateral basis."

Germany has been slashing spending in most ministries in recent weeks to ensure next year's budget comes in under the Maastricht Treaty's strict deficit criteria needed to join Europe's planned Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999.

This single-minded drive has taken precedence over some key plans abroad, such as a few German-French arms projects or Bonn's drive for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Complaining of inefficiency, the United States announced last year it would pull out of UNIDO at the end of 1996.

Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) attacked the idea of quitting UNIDO, saying it was "a heavy blow to the United Nations' multilateral development aid system."

Spranger's withdrawal plan must still be presented to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Cabinet, but aides said he expected it to be passed without problem.

Spranger said UNIDO -- the United Nations Industrial Development Organization -- had ig-

nored calls to reform itself from a bureaucracy promoting state-run industry to an agency helping private enterprise in developing states.

The Vienna-based agency, which was founded in 1966, had missed the world shift towards

private enterprise that came after the fall of communism, he said.

"The upheavals of 1989 and 1990 have dramatically changed the view that was common in 1966 that state organizations could build up economic structures," Spranger said. "We now see that the private sector develops private business."

Spranger's ministry said his cost-cutting plans also included reducing Germany's contributions to the United Nations Development Program, the International Development Agency, the European Development Fund and Regional Development Banks.

These would amount to a 7.7 percent cut in Germany's multilateral development aid. Spranger's budget will be cut to 7.65 billion marks in 1997 from 8.14 billion this year.

Bonn's annual contribution to UNIDO is 17 million marks (\$11.34 million).

Austria, host country to the agency, said it regretted Spranger's decision and hoped it would not be implemented.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, state secretary in the Austrian Foreign Ministry, agreed UNIDO was inefficient and overstuffed but said it had been reforming and needed more time.

She said she would raise the issue at a meeting of European Union development ministers in Brussels on Friday.

Indian Gov't Forced to Back Down on Petrol Price Hike

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India has backed down over plans to raise petrol prices for the second time in four months following Communist protests within the coalition government, officials said Thursday.

The decision was taken at a four-hour meeting of the steering committee, the government's highest decision-making body, late Wednesday, a government spokesman said.

"The agreement not to hike the prices of petroleum products was reached after the Communist parties raised objection," he said. "The finance minister has agreed to take all parties into confidence before enforcing a price hike."

The rises were proposed after a world crude oil prices rose, a depreciation of the rupee and a sharp rise in imports. State-run oil com-

panies are expected to owe \$4.4 billion to the exchequer by the end of the fiscal year.

Prices of petroleum products, including petrol and diesel, were increased by 25 percent four months ago, but the government scaled down the hike in diesel by 15 percent following nationwide protests.

"The United Front members agreed that efforts will be made to bridge the high deficit due to the rising cost of oil by reducing consumption and adopting austerity measures," the spokesman said.

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda put off a proposal by the petroleum ministry a month ago to raise the price of crude oil by 14 percent to \$36, saying it would have to be discussed among the coalition partners.

Persian Gulf Int'l Bank General Manager Resigns

MANAMA (AFP) - (Persian) Gulf International Bank (PGIB), which belongs to the six member nations of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), announced on Wednesday the resignation of its general manager, Ghazi Abdel Jawad.

In a statement reported by the official GNA news agency, the bank said that Abdel Jawad, a Saudi, would leave his post over the next few months.

Abdel Jawad, who has held the post since August 1984, was re-

cently named executive director of the Arab Banking Corporation. He is to take over that position on February 1, 1997.

The PGIB, based in Manama, is completely controlled by the (Persian) Gulf Investment Corporation (PGIC), shared in equal parts by PGCC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The Arab Banking Corporation is owned by Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Libya and private investors.

Ramos Calls Asian Tigers to Support Cooperation in the Region

MANILA (Reuters) - Philippine President Fidel Ramos opened a two-day networking forum for business and political leaders on Friday with a call to Asia-Pacific "tiger" entrepreneurs to support the cooperation drive in the region.

Opening the APEC Business Forum (ABF), Ramos said the development of the Pacific rim region was dependent on the energy and enterprise of the private sector.

"We who live in free-market societies know that growth, prosperity and human development and fulfillment are created by the exertions of men in institutions that are free to invent and create -- in a word, by...the private sector," said Ramos, host of the fourth annual APEC summit in the Philippines.

Ramos said the ABF, which groups hundreds of large private companies across Asia and the Americas, would allow heads of business to meet political leaders from the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.

"Let's go for it, go go go!" Ramos told a sea of chief executives meeting in the heart of Makati, Manila's main business district.

Ramos has pledged to give the private sector a higher profile at this year's APEC summit than it had at previous gatherings.

A number of private sector recommendations are expected to be included in the Manila action plan for APEC's development into the world's biggest free trade zone that the leaders are due to endorse at Monday's summit in Sober Bay, north of Manila.

These include proposals for meeting the region's massive infrastructure needs and ways to speed up the flow of people, goods and capital.

The ABF, meeting for two days ahead of the summit, includes the heads of dozens of big-

French Truckers' Strike Raises Fears for Economy

PARIS (Reuters) - A four-day strike by truckers blocking roads and barricading fuel depots across France showed signs of squeezing the economy on Thursday as unions stepped up protests despite an offer of talk by haulage bosses.

Car maker PSA Peugeot Citroen said that it had reduced shifts at several plants because of a shortage of spare parts.

Some supermarkets and petrol stations were running low on supplies because of the truckers' protests to press demands for higher wages, shorter working hours and the right for drivers to retire at 55 instead of 60.

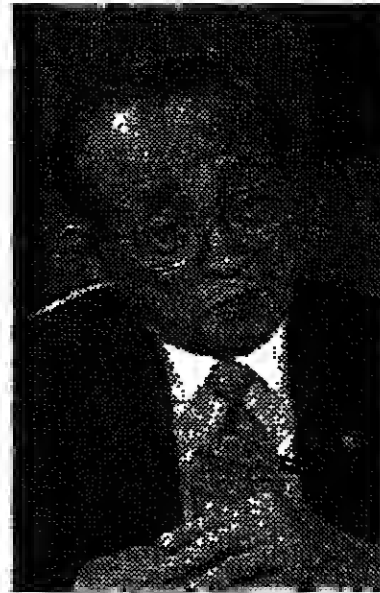
Motorways in and out of 30 towns and cities across the country were barricaded.

Paris escaped the blockades after some disruption on Wednesday.

Truckers have singled out Bordeaux, whose mayor is Prime Minister Alain Juppe, as the main focus of protests, causing huge traffic jams on all access roads. Airlines at Bordeaux Airport said air freight was badly hit.

Toulouse, Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand, Caen and Le Mans were also among those most affected.

The CGT Union said about 50,000 trucks had been mobilized to take part in the protests.



RAMOS

name conglomerates and financial institutions such as Salomon Inc of the United States, Japan's Itochu Corp and Southeast Asia's biggest phone giant Singapore Telecom.

In a rebuttal of recent attacks on APEC, Ramos said the grouping represented a new model of cooperation for development and shared prosperity.

"The traditional model relied on the transfer of resources from the rich to the poor as the essential transaction in development cooperation. The new model's preferred mode of cooperation is the

sharing of information, knowledge, experience and expertise," he said.

Critics of APEC say its free-market drive could throw small businesses out of work. They also charge that big business with no national loyalties will ravage the environment and turn poor Asia-Pacific nations into manufacturing sweatshops.

But Ramos told his business audience, which he repeatedly referred to as "tiger entrepreneurs," that the APEC enterprise was essential.

"If we do not take up regionalism as our collective course, then we will be bogged down by endless quarrels over details, turf and concessions," he said.

Ramos said ordinary Asians would benefit from APEC.

"I'm not just talking only about the big players...I am also talking about the small entrepreneur in Java who will benefit from our joint efforts in APEC to stimulate training opportunities," he said.

"I am talking about the Mindanao farmer, whose ability to get his crops to market will be enhanced by the new roads that will be built. I am talking about the high school graduate in Port Moresby who will compete for a manufacturing job."

Russia Sees Growth by 2000, Problems with IMF Now

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian officials on Thursday promised a thriving economy by the year 2000, but acknowledged they had problems in the latest round of talks with the International Monetary Fund.

Hinting the IMF might deny Russia the November tranche of a three-year \$10 million loan, Economy Minister Yevgey Yasin said. "The situation is difficult. We have problems and there will be certain problems with 1997."

The International Monetary Fund last month delayed payment of the next tranche of its \$10 billion loan to Russia over concern about low levels of tax revenue.

An IMF mission is currently working in Moscow to assess whether to issue the tranche. Yasin said tax revenues in November were better than in October but were still too low.

Poor tax collection is among the toughest problems facing Russia's economy, which by many indicators is stabilizing after years of decline since the Soviet Union collapsed.

Yasin said the Cabinet had on Thursday given its blessing to a blueprint for economic development which foresees output growth of five percent a year by 2000.

"It is an exceptionally difficult task, but we cannot do it any other way," Yasin told a news conference.

Russia's economy, as measured by gross domestic product, slumped by six percent in the first nine months of this year and Yasin has previously forecast a five percent GDP fall in 1996.

Officials have been predicting a return to growth in Russia for years but it has yet to materialize.

President Boris Yeltsin said after he was re-elected in July that reviving production was a key economic task.

The new program foresees annual inflation of five to eight percent and a boom in foreign investment to a least \$10-12 billion by 2000, Yasin said, from an expected \$3.5-\$4 billion this year. "It is a very difficult program," Yasin said. "The main goal is renewal of economic growth."

The state statistics committee said on Thursday that if current trends continued, inflation this month could tick up to two percent, the highest monthly rate since April, from 1.3 percent last month. It also said inflation for the year could be 22 percent.

While high by Western standards, this would be a huge fall from last year's 131 percent.

The economic plan forecasts a fall in interest rates and lower yields on government securities, which economists say are needed to boost investment in Russian industry.

After winning Cabinet approval for the program, the economy ministry will start working out how to implement it.

Changes it wants include a shift to international accounting standards for Russian firms, higher gas and electricity prices for households but lower prices for industry.

Problems with the IMF failed to mar Russia's return to international capital markets on Thursday with its debut Eurobond.

Economic Digest

VANCOUVER - Cash-strapped Canadian Airlines Corp has begun meeting with its unions to discuss a rescue plan for the carrier and believes it is close to concluding a separate contract agreement with flight attendants, a company spokeswoman said.

MIAMI - Investigators probing the crash of ValuJet Flight 592 zeroed in on the inability of aviation regulators to keep up with inspections and paperwork during the low-cost carrier's explosive growth.

LONDON - Overall demand for manufactured goods in Britain improved in November, according to the latest Confederation of British Industry monthly industrial trends survey. Twenty-four percent of firms said their present order books were above normal and 24 percent below normal, giving an overall balance of zero, the most positive result since August 1995.

MANILA - The Asian Development Bank said it had approved various loans worth \$184.7 million to Vietnam, Bangladesh and Laos. The biggest, amounting to \$120 million, will go to Vietnam for a road project near China.

SYDNEY - News Corp Ltd said it could confirm it had sold its shares in newspaper publisher John Fairfax Holdings Ltd.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks were lower by the end of morning trade after hovering in both negative and positive ranges throughout the two-hour session, brokers said. At midday, the Nikkei 225 average was down 74.86 points or 0.35 percent at 21,068.48.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong Stocks trended sideways in the morning session on rotational buying that saw a switch out of shares of banks and property developers and into real estate investment companies, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index added 13.08 points to 13,112.64 after opening 80 points up then trending in negative territory.

TOKYO - The dollar was a bit firmer at noon in Tokyo, but it failed to break out of its recent ranges amid an absence of fresh factors, dealers said.

DALLAS - American Airlines agreed to buy 103 airliners from Boeing Co. and took options on more than 500 more in a deal that eventually could be worth more than \$20 billion, one of the biggest commercial airplane orders in history.

WASHINGTON - The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits last week rose more than expected to its highest level since July, the government said.

NEW YORK - Railroads Conrail and CSX so far have convinced the courts their proposed \$8.5 billion merger should proceed, but they will have a tougher time persuading unhappy shareholders. CSX said first step of the merger, its tender offer for 19.9 percent of Conrail Stock, is over-subscribed.

BEIRUT - Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has called for the establishment of more investment banks in Lebanon, newspapers reported Wednesday.

"In Lebanon we have a large number of commercial banks and very few investment banks," Hariri told delegates to a conference on Arab Banking and Economic Reform. "We encourage the establishment of investment banks as a way to help develop the production sector."

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IRAN FEATURE NEWS

WASHINGTON (AP) - Abnormal levels of a key brain chemical may predispose depressed people to commit suicide, and measuring levels of this chemical may enable doctors to identify those most likely to take their lives, researchers say.

Dr. J. John Mann of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center said that studies by a number of researchers have shown that levels of serotonin, an important neurotransmitter protein in the brain, are 20 to 25 percent lower in patients who are at high risk of suicide.

Serotonin is particularly active in a part of the brain that controls inhibition, and a lack of the neurotransmitter, or its related chemicals, lowers the amount of control a person has over actions.

"This predisposes a person to act on suicide thoughts," Mann said in an interview. "Serotonin is

U.S. Researchers Link Brain Chemistry to Suicide

important for restraint. If serotonin is reduced, a person is more apt to act on powerful feelings."

By identifying those most likely to kill themselves, such patients then could receive more aggressive care to help them control suicidal impulses through a variety of medications now available.

Mann delivered a lecture on the neurobiology of suicide on at a national meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

Identifying people who are seriously planning suicide has long been one of the most difficult challenges for doctors who work with depressed patients. People who have a dedicated plan to commit suicide often are able to disguise and hide their intentions. Also, doctors often fail to ac-

curately gauge how serious a patient's suicide intentions are. For instance, studies in Finland and England show that about half of all people who commit suicide see a physician in the 90 days before they kill themselves, but only about 25 percent of them receive adequate care. Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States.

Monitoring levels of serotonin may be an important tool in identifying people most likely to act on suicidal impulses, Mann said.

"Three studies now have shown that a future suicide attempt can be predicted by examining the serotonin levels," he said. "People with low serotonin have a four- to six-fold greater chance of suicide than other de-

pressed people."

Mann said a brain imaging technique called Positron Emission Tomography, or PET, may provide a powerful diagnostic tool for suicide.

PET is able to detect the reaction in the brain to a drug, fenfluramine, that prompts the release of serotonin. Depression tends to reduce the action of this drug.

Mann and his colleagues plan to conduct PET examinations of depressed patients to determine if the imaging system can identify those most likely to kill themselves.

The tendency toward suicide may be aggravated by childhood experiences that can affect serotonin levels in the brain for a lifetime, said Mann.

U.S. Study Rekindles Debate Over Artificial Sweetener

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Aspartame, the widely used artificial sweetener linked to brain tumors in a recent scientific report, is not carcinogenic, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared earlier.

The latest issue of the journal of Neuro Pathology in experimental neurology includes a report by John Olney suggesting a connection between the rise in brain tumors in the United States and the introduction of the substance 15 years ago.

The FDA said that analysis of data from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) "does not support an association between the use of

aspartame and increased incidence of brain tumors."

NCI data show that "the overall incidence of brain and central nervous system cancers began increasing in 1973 and continued to increase through 1985 in the United States," the FDA said.

"Since 1985, the trend line has flattened for these cancers and in the last two years recorded (1991 to 1993), the incidence has slightly decreased."

In standing by its original 1981 decision, the FDA said it had looked into the brain tumor question before approving aspartame and concluded that the substance did not cause brain damage.

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Greenwich Races Against Time for Millennium Dome

GREENWICH, ENGLAND (Reuters) - Greenwich, the London suburb that gave its name to GMT, is itself racing against time and funding problems to welcome the millennium with a vast exhibition centered on the world's biggest dome.

Serious doubts persist about money, planning permission has still not been granted and critics say the grandiose project is nothing more than an overblown tent.

But the Millennium Commission is convinced Greenwich can deliver the dream on time and be in the vanguard of world projects marking the dawn of the next thousand years.

Britain plans to construct a giant dome to house exhibitions on the theme of time in Greenwich, home of the Meridian Line that measures longitude around the globe. Clocks across the world are set from Greenwich mean time.

The dome, designed to withstand the vagaries of a British winter, would be twice the size of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Its 80,000 square meters (861,100 square feet) could comfortably house London's Trafalgar Square with its towering Nelson's Column.

The exhibition is due to be built on a derelict gasworks beside the river Thames, southeast of London. It will open on December 31, 1999, and last a year.

"We see this project as being on a scale along with the Pompi-

dou Center in Paris or the Sydney Opera House," says Architect Mike Davies.

The dome, its glass sides and white fabric roof supported by 12 giant masts, will shine like a futuristic spaceship on the river bank. It is expected to attract up to 12 million visitors by boat, train and, at least welcome of all locally, car.

The project, designed by architects from the Richard Rogers Partnership, will receive 200 million pounds (\$333 million) from National Lottery Funds. The gasworks' cleanup operation has already begun and will eventually include a park, gardens, a plaza and performance area.

The other 150 million pounds has to come from private finance. That target has not yet been reached despite heavy arm-twisting by the government. Many experts believe the exhibition will end up costing far more than budgeted.

Planning permission has been sought from Greenwich Council which is due to decide in January. Doubters say that even if it is granted the builders will be pushed to complete the project on time.

A big consultation exercise has been launched to sell the project in Greenwich, home of the magnificent Royal Naval College, the Royal Observatory and the Cutty Sark Tea Clipper.

Explanatory leaflets have been



posted through every local letter box and a glossy exhibition is being staged in the town.

Up to 120 people a day visit the exhibition. Organizers say their prime concerns are traffic, what will go into the dome and what will happen to the site afterwards.

Catherine Harris, greeting residents at the exhibition, is the first to admit: "everyone realizes the time scale is tight."

Local resident Peter Cross, studying maps of the plans, has told the organizers exactly what he thinks of the exhibition.

"It's a waste of time. Contrac-

tors will go in for a killing on a temporary basis. I think it will revert to industrial wasteland again afterwards."

The planners say construction will provide 2,000 jobs and the exhibition itself will employ 5,000.

Art critic Brian Sewell has been much more vociferous in his attacks on the project. "It has no purpose and is a wicked waste of money," he wrote in London's Evening Standard newspaper.

"It is the government's intention to celebrate the millennium with the silliest nonsense of all — a tent. The biggest tent the world has ever seen it may be, circular and domed, but a mere tent nevertheless."

The overall theme will be time with the dome intended to represent a giant clock face and the exhibitions, which are still being formulated, will cover everything from "discovery time" to "fun time". With the countdown to the big day in 2,000 now starting around the globe, the project's guiding light, Barry Hartop, is convinced Greenwich will "make a significant statement to the world".

"There is still a long way to go," he said. "But potentially we could have the biggest and best event in the world, one which will create employment, improve a rundown area of our capital city and encourage new economic investment."

Japanese Urged to Change Lifestyle as Security Erodes

TOKYO (AFP) - A government agency Tuesday urged the Japanese to adapt their lifestyles to face an "obscure sense of insecurity" emerging in the country.

"Conditions that have supported security and safety in our lives are beginning to change," the Economic Planning Agency said in an annual white paper on lifestyle and livelihood. It said an "obscure sense of insecurity" was emerging due to the end of the Japanese tradition of lifetime employment, the ageing of society and a declining birth rate.

A nationwide outbreak of food poisoning caused by the deadly bacillus O-157 this year had added to the sense of insecurity provoked last year by a killer earthquake in Kobe and a nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway, it said.

"For one's job security, one must not depend on his or her employer, and must learn to develop specific skills that can be useful in other companies," the report said.

To cope with the ageing of society, the report called on the government to integrate the country's social security programs, which are now divided into the three sectors of pension, medicine and welfare.

The O-157 epidemic was the worst food-poisoning case in Japan since World War II, claiming 11 lives nationwide and leaving some 10,000 people sick. In a country said to be one of the world's safest, people were increasingly becoming involved in crimes related to drugs and guns, the report said. "Overall, we are required to face the facts, rationalize outdated systems and channel the country's resources to ensure security and safety in our lives," it said.

Treasure Trove of 364 Pearls Discovered in Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) - A treasure trove of 364 pearls dating back to the 14th or 15th century has been found by French archaeologists excavating in the Persia Gulf state of Bahrain, the director of the Bahrain museum said recently.

The white and yellow pearls were found at Qalat al-Bahrain, around five kilometers (three miles) north of the capital Manama and near the waters of the Persian Gulf, said museum Director Nayla al-Khalifa.

Al-Khalifa, who was quoted by the official Gulf News Agency, gave no estimate for the value of the pearls, which will be cleaned before being displayed in the museum.

The French team was led by Pierre Lombard from the National Center for Scientific Research.

At the same site, the team in April last year found around 20 baked-clay tablets which bore cuneiform characters in Akkadian, the most widely used language in the Middle East in the second millennium before Christ.

U.S. Reaches Settlement for 12 Radiation Victims

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. government agreed to a \$4.8 million settlement with the families of 12 victims of secret radiation tests, one of the attorneys for the families said recently.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary was due to announce the settlement earlier at a meeting of the American Public Health Association in New York. Energy Department spokeswoman Anne Elliott said. She declined to comment on the terms of the agreement.

Each of the families will re-

ceive \$400,000, said Ray Heslin of the New York law firm Gold, Farrell and Marks. O'Leary is also due to make a public apology to the families on behalf of the government at a future date, he said.

The settlement covers 12 out of 18 victims whom the Clinton administration last year promised to compensate for harm done by the government in its Cold War-era radiation tests. Elliott said.

All but one of the victims were injected with plutonium without their consent in experiments that were coordinated at the Univer-

sity of Rochester to test the potential effects of nuclear fallout.

Only one of the 18 victims — Mary Jean Connell, who was injected with uranium — is still alive, according to Heslin. The attorneys are handling the cases of three other victims whose families were found a little later than the other 12. Heslin said it was unclear why the other three cases were not being settled at the same time. "If they're settling, they should be paying them the same amount as everybody else," he said.

TV Advertising Blitz Blamed for Overweight Aussie Kids

SYDNEY (AFP) - Children in Australia are bombarded with more commercial television advertising than anywhere else on Earth, according to an international survey released here earlier.

The study, by the British consumer group Consumers International, also found most of the advertisements were for junk food linked to unhealthy eating patterns, obesity and increased cholesterol levels. It was released by the Australian Consumers' Association (ACA) which called for tougher controls on commercial television, blaming junk food commercials for high rates of obesity and cholesterol levels in Australian children. "Surveys show that people are worried about the number of ads targeted at children," ACA spokesman Matt O'Neill said, adding that if Australia wanted healthier children it needed a reduction in junk food advertising time.

"It's no wonder that 30 percent of Australian school children aged 10 to 15 years are overweight or obese, 50 percent have high cholesterol levels, and 25 percent of 12-year-old boys show high blood pressure levels," he said. With little or no effective controls on the frequency of commercial breaks on television, Aussie children must endure an average 34 advertisements an hour compared to half that in Britain, the study showed.

Even in the United States, children had to watch only 24 an hour while in France it is 16, five an

hour in the Netherlands, four in Austria and none in Norway, where advertising to children is banned.

Yet audience surveys routinely show up to 85 percent of Australia's viewing public prefer commercial television in the non-commercial Australian broadcasting corporation which aims for a more discerning audience.

An Australian broadcasting authority spokeswoman said the authority wanted to meet the ACA to discuss children's advertising standards, but claimed research showed the level of food advertising directed at children was not a major community concern.

O'Neill said a survey conducted two years ago indicated that 59 percent of parents were concerned about junk food advertising aimed at children, and 79 percent wanted tougher controls.

"We are happy to show the ACA our figures, and I want to see how they justify their finding that there is no community concern over the matter," O'Neill said.

"When we ran a campaign on the issue in 1990, the Prime Minister got 30,000 letters of complaint about the style and content of children's advertising."

The association urged the government to adopt a specific code to cover children's advertising and called for tighter advertising time limits on children's viewing periods.



Quasar Host Galaxies

Hubble Space Telescope - Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.: This photo released Nov. 19 by NASA in Washington, D.C. shows Hubble Space Telescope images of examples of different host galaxies for quasars. The sites provide the fuel to power these unique light beacons.

(AFP Photo)

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Andre Malraux Reburied in French Pantheon

PARIS (Reuters) - The ashes of Andre Malraux, one of the most important French cultural figures of the 20th century, will be reburied on Saturday in the Paris Pantheon, last resting place of France's illustrious dead.

Malraux, a writer, adventurer, orator and revolutionary who became General Charles De Gaulle's long-serving culture minister, will lie next to such literary icons as Voltaire, Rousseau and Hugo.

The ceremony is taking place exactly 20 years after his death on November 23, 1976 and was buried near Paris.

President Jacques Chirac and Maurice Schumann, De Gaulle's wartime spokesman, will deliver eulogies in the same place where Malraux made his most famous speech in 1964 when the remains of wartime resistance hero Jean Moulin, tortured to death by the Nazis, were reburied in the Pantheon.

Malraux traveled extensively in the Far East, fought on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War and narrowly escaped a German firing squad as a World War Two resistance fighter.

He drew on his own adventures for his best-known works: "La Condition Humaine" (Man's Estate) about revolutionary tension in China in the 1920s, and "L'Esprit" (Days of Hope) after setting up a squadron of foreign volunteer pilots for the Republicans in Spain's 1936-39 Civil War.

He sought unsuccessfully to repeat that feat decades later, when he tried to create an "International Brigade" to help Bangladesh win independence from Pakistan in the early 1970s.

As culture minister throughout De Gaulle's presidency from 1959 to 1969, Malraux is remembered for launching an acclaimed clean-up of Paris landmarks, including Notre Dame Cathedral, and dotting France with maisons de la culture (cultural centers).

The last national heroes to be reburied in the Pantheon were Nobel prize-winning physicist Marie Curie - the first woman to earn such an honor on her own merits - and her scientist husband Pierre. The late President Francois

Mitterrand presided over that ceremony shortly before leaving office.

Thousands of posters portraying Malraux and carrying excerpts of his works have been plastered in the Paris metro (underground) and in main thoroughfares.

A postage stamp has been issued showing a famous 1935 photograph of a stern, inquisitive-looking Malraux with disheveled hair. The cigarette wedged in the corner of his mouth has been airbrushed out, a victim of the new health consciousness.

Television stations are broadcasting Malraux documentaries and new editions of his books have filled the bookshops.

But in contrast to the fierce controversy this year over commemorations of the 1,500th anniversary of the baptism of King Clovis, there has been no great dispute about honoring this latter-day national hero.

Few contest Malraux's right to a place in the Pantheon, both as a man of action and as a man of letters. His most eminent successor in the culture ministry, socialist Jack Lang, has joined the chorus of admirers with a gushing book.

Yet Malraux's passionate activism could not be more at odds with the current mood of collective depression in France over high unemployment and fears of economic uncertainty.

His political views, which oscillated from flirting with communism in the 1920s and 1930s to impassioned anti-communism from the late 1940s, are no longer controversial.

Left-wing commentators recall his defense of the oppressed of Southeast Asia and his role on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War. Conservatives hail his unwavering support for De Gaulle in peace and in war.

Conservative writer Jean D'Ormesson said: "None of the great battles of this century left him indifferent."

"He took part in the early struggles against colonialism, was a leading anti-fascist figure between the two world wars and chose his camp in Spain before joining the national resistance against the (German) occupiers."

007 Actors At Memorial for Bond Films Producer

LONDON (AP) - Three actors who have kept James Bond suave for a generation joined Sunday in remembering Albert R. "Cubby" Broccoli, the Hollywood producer who brought 007 to the movie screen.

Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and the current James Bond, Pierce Brosnan, stood together among 500 people at a memorial service at the Odeon Cinema in London's Leicester Square where the urbane British spy made his 1962 screen debut.

The first 007, Sean Connery, who fell out with Broccoli in 1984

and 1985 over the movie profits, was absent.

Broccoli, 87, died June 28 in Los Angeles. He was in Britain often during the making of the Bond legend over 30 years and his family decided the memorial should be in London.

Prince Charles, long a Bond follower, sent a message of sympathy, and dozens of fans waited in drizzling rain to see the big stars arrive in limousines.

"We are thrilled to be part of the legend," said Moore. The bond movies, based on

novels by Ian Fleming, are among the most successful series ever produced.

Broccoli kept going the entertaining packages of adventure, exotic backgrounds, gadgetry and beautiful young women while the 007 actors changed and the Fleming novels ran out.

"Despite all his successes, international awards, and distinguished friends in many countries, Cubby remained the gentle and unaffected character everybody liked and most loved," said British writer Donald Zec, a close friend.



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: James Bond actors, from L to R, Timothy Dalton, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan arrive for the memorial service for the producer of 17 James Bond Movies Albert 'Cubby' Broccoli who died last June, at the Odeon in London Nov. 17. (AFP Photo)

What Do You Suggest?

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The Academy for the Persian Language and Literature came into existence by an edict of the High Council of the Cultural Revolution and started its operation in 1992.

The Academy of Persian Language is an organization which

co-ordinates the studies and researches conducted by the scholars in the different arenas regarding the Persian language, to reach a unified decision. Haddad Adel said.

Secondly, the academy conducts constant research to find suitable Persian equivalents for the foreign words which enter our languages every day. Thousands of new scientific and technological terms are coined in keeping with the fast pace of advances that are being made and if we do not try to find equivalents for the new terms our language will soon be inundated with foreign words and will eventually lose its distinguishing characteristics, Haddad Adel noted.

The academy publishes a quarterly journal titled D'Nameye Farbaogestan (Journal of Farbaogestan) as well as a monthly newsletter.

In its efforts to find Persian equivalent for the new scientific and technological terms that enter our language, the academy's newsletter prints selections of new foreign words and their proposed Persian equivalents.

The following scientific and technological terms (together with their Persian equivalents) appeared in newsletters 5, 6 & 7 (for the Iranian months Khordad, Tir and Mordad).

Readers are requested to communicate their suggestions about suitable Persian terms to the academy's Secretariat, P.O.Box

15875-6394 or call phone No. 8718019 in Tehran.

Boycott (En.)
Subject (Fr.)
Freezer (Er.)
Fleche (Fr.)
Folklore (Fr.)
Folklorique (Fr.)
Filtre (Fr.)
Cabinet (Fr.)
Classe (Fr.)
Club (Fr.)
Compote (Fr.)
Conserve (Fr.)
Coupon (Fr.)
Loge (Fr.)
Moquette (Fr.)
Microphone (Fr.)
Wheelchair (En.)
Up to date (En.)
Allergie (Fr.)
Amphitheatre (Fr.)

New Version of 'The White Sheik'

DI BAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP) - American actor Patrick Swayze plans to play the lead in a movie about the life of an American boy who was adopted by an Arab couple and rose to become a powerful sheik, the Gulf Today newspaper reported Sunday.

The movie will be based on the Arabic book "The White Sheik," which tells the story of Johannes Herman Poll, who lived in the United Arab Emirates in the 19th century.

'Aspect of Virtue in Cinema'

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The session of group discussion under the title, 'Aspect of Virtue in Cinema and Women's Role in the Cinema of Sacred Defense' will be held today. Originally planned for November 3 by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, the session had been postponed in consideration of its concurrence with the tragic death of the actor Shahrokh Ghiyasi who died in an accident during location shooting.

Serb Film Wins at Stockholm Film Festival

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - The Serb film "Pretty Village, Pretty Flame" was awarded the Bronze Horse Best Film Prize at the Stockholm Film Festival, organizers said.

The film, by Srđan Dragovic, was honored for "its strong, gripping portrayal of the madness of war," the jury said.

"Pretty Village, Pretty Flame" is the story of Milan, who at a war hospital in the former Yugoslavia thinks back on the war and remembers a Muslim friend with whom he later had to fight.

"Fistful of Flies" was awarded the International Critics' Award as Best Film, while its director, Monica Pellizzari, won Best Director.

'Three Continents' Film Festival Opens

NANTES, FRANCE (AFP) - The 18th Three Continents Film Festival, highlighting works from Africa, Asia and Latin America, opened here Tuesday with 80 films on the program.

As well as the films in competition, largely from Asia, including Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, the week-long festival will pay tribute to the Shanghai cinema between 1930 and 1950, Argentinian melodrama of the 1930's and '40's, and films from South Africa of the last 60 years.

Blue Medallion on Vivien Leigh House

LONDON (AP) - Vivien Leigh has been remembered with the unveiling of a blue plaque outside the apartment she once shared with Laurence Olivier.

Olivier and the "Gone with the Wind" belle moved into the flat at 54 Eaton Square in 1958. She lived there until her death in 1967.

"After 'Gone with the Wind,' she and Larry were ridiculously glamorous. They were a staggering couple," said Sir John Mills, who unveiled the plaque Wednesday.

Journal of 8th Art Hits Stands

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The latest edition of the quarterly journal of public relations studies and research hits the stands.

Entitled "Honar-e Hashom" (8th Art), the new edition covers the summer season, while the first edition came out in spring.

The summer issue of the journal includes an editorial which deals with the public opinion as the most profound objectives.

Other subjects taken up in this issue are "How Public Relations Came into Existence," "Recommendations to Public Relations Officers," "What Is Public Opinion," "Satisfaction and Propagation."

This issue also presents essays entitled "Education as a Window to the World of Journalism," "Reportage and Dissemination of Information," "Index of Selected Articles," book review: "Effective Public Relations," and "Bibliography of Public Relations" which includes comprehensive lists of books and articles written in Iran on the subject of public relations during the past half century.



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IRAN
POLITICAL NEWS

Kremlin Praises Defusion of Belarus Crisis

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - The Kremlin praised the defusion of a power struggle between the president and Parliament in Belarus after a last-minute negotiation bid yesterday by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The deal was "a major success and a real breakthrough in the search for a way out of the crisis. It is especially important that Russia made a real contribution to a political compromise," spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky told reporters.

President Boris Yeltsin, who left hospital yesterday at a sanatorium outside Moscow to continue his recovery from heart surgery, had made "a personal contribution to resolving the crisis," Yastrzhembsky added.

Yastrzhembsky described Moscow's mediation as proof that Russia and Belarus should continue their integration process, already the tightest between Russia and any ex-Soviet state.



CHERNOMYRDIN

"This agreement was the best confirmation of the viability of integration and justification of the hopes placed on that integration," he said.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko and parliamentary leaders ended their dispute early yesterday that had been prompted by the head of state's plans to push for sweeping new powers through a referendum.

In a compromise deal reached after all-night talks, Lukashenko agreed to make Sunday's controversial referendum merely consultative rather than binding as he had initially planned.

The speaker of Parliament in turn agreed to drop impeachment proceedings against the president, who has become increasingly autocratic since being elected in 1994 in this former Soviet Republic of 10 million people.

The compromise agreement must still be ratified yesterday by the full Parliament.

Clinton Combines Vacation, Plea for Environment

PORT DOUGLAS, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - President Bill Clinton yesterday called on the world to protect the environment, as he visited a rain forest, the great barrier reef and came face-to-face with a kangaroo.

Clinton is spending a two-day vacation in this northeastern Australian town before heading for Manila where he will attend next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

But even on vacation, he could not refrain from working. At a midday talk at a port Douglas beach-side park, Clinton appealed before an audience of several hundred for the International Community to protect the planet's natural resources.

With the waters of the Pacific as background, he emphasized the need to safeguard coral reefs from the threats of pollution and destructive fishing methods.

Influenced by Vice-President Al Gore, Clinton has made the en-



CLINTON

vironment one of the themes of his presidency, especially during the recent presidential campaign.

Clinton also appealed to the International Community to make "legally binding commitments" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt global warming.

The president's proposals were well-received by his audience of 200 to 300 people in a town where the defense of the environment is synonymous with survival of the local economy.

Saint of the Gutters Devotes Life to the Poor

CALCUTTA, INDIA (Reuters) - Mother Teresa, known as the "saint of the gutters", began her mission in the teeming slums of Calcutta and inspired the world with her devotion to the poor.

She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for bringing hope and dignity to millions of unwanted people. "The poor must know that we love them," was her simple message.

Bowed and shrouded by a Sari, she has become a familiar symbol of selfless commitment to the destitute and a living saint to her multitude of followers.

While the world heaped honors on her, the nun of Albanian descent maintained she was merely doing God's work.

"It gives me great joy and fulfillment to love and care for the poor and neglected," she said. "The poor do not need our sympathy and pity. They need our love and compassion."

The diminutive Roman Catholic missionary began a lonely task in 1949 in Calcutta, India's most densely populated city, which has grown to touch the hearts of people around the world.

In 1979, when told she had won the Nobel Peace Prize, she said characteristically: "I am unworthy."

The world disagreed, showering more than 80 national and international honors on her, including the Bharat Ratna, or jewel of India, the country's highest civilian award.

Her health began to deteriorate in 1989 when she was fitted with a pacemaker. A year later, the Vatican announced she was stepping down as head of her missionaries of charity order.

More than 100 delegates flew in from around the world to elect a successor. They could not agree, so asked her to stay. She agreed.

In 1991, Mother Teresa was treated at a California hospital for heart disease and bacterial pneumonia.

In 1993, she fell in Rome and broke three ribs. In August of the same year, she developed malaria, complicated by her heart and lung problems. In April 1995, she fractured a collar bone.

She spent three weeks in hospi-

tal in late August and early September 1996 for heart trouble, malaria and pneumonia.

Two weeks later, she fell off a chair and hit her head. As always when she was ill, her nuns prayed long and hard.

Her increasing frailty, arthritis and failing eyesight did not stop her international travels.

Mother Teresa, who opened missions in 80 countries, said apart from poverty and hunger, the world's major problems were loneliness and neglect.

"Loneliness is also a kind of hunger," she said. "Hunger for warmth and affection. And this hunger is much more difficult to quench than the hunger for a piece of bread."

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bejaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje, in what was then Serbia, on August 27, 1910.

At the age of 18 she became a Loretto nun, hoping to work at the order's Calcutta mission.

She was sent to Loretto Abbey in Dublin and from there to India to begin her novitiate and teach geography at a convent school in Calcutta.

She said her divine call to work among the poor came in 1946. After training as a nurse with American missionaries, she opened her first Calcutta Slum school in 1949.

She took the name Teresa, after France's Saint Therese of the child Jesus. In mainly Hindu India, she was simply "mother".

Mother Teresa set up her first home for the dying in a Hindu rest house in Calcutta after she saw a penniless woman turned away by a city hospital.

Named "Nirmal Hriday" (tender heart), it was the first of a chain of 150 homes for dying and destitute people, admitting nearly 18,000 a year.

Her missionaries of charity, a Roman Catholic religious order she founded in 1949, now runs about 300 homes for unwanted children and the destitute in India and abroad.

In 1994, a British television documentary called the myth around Mother Teresa a mixture of "hyperbole and credulity".

Roman Catholics around the world rose to her defense.

Mosque on the Move Making Plans to Reach out to New Community

Promoting knowledge and understanding between faiths is a major goal of the leader of a Dearborn mosque moving next summer to Dearborn Heights.

The Islamic House of Wisdom (Darul Hikmah) will move from its 10,000-square-foot building on Chase Road north of Warren to a facility nearly four times that size on Ann Arbor Trail south of Warren.

The mosque moves in June when the nearly 5,000 members of Detroit World Outreach head to a larger building in Redford Township.

"One of our goals is to help better understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims," said the mosque's leader, Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi.

"The opening of the mosque is a new chapter in the history of our community and even in the history of Islam in our country," he said.

The Dearborn Heights site includes a 1,000-seat auditorium, media center for live broadcasts, library, classrooms, parking lots and two homes adjacent to the property, now occupied by Detroit World Outreach pastors.

"Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States and needs to be explained for all who think it's a foreign phenomenon," said Elahi.

In reality, most Muslims who live in the United States are born and raised here, so Islam is an American reality, not something foreign.

"Muslims and Christians are

common in many, many moral and spiritual elements. We have a few differences, but Muslims, Jews and Christians believe in one God," Elahi said.

Elahi said a few hundred members participate in prayer at the mosque each week, and more at special occasions and various times during the year.

The mosque has moved some functions to its future home and plans to transfer others before June. Members held their first board meeting in the new surroundings early this month.

"I'm pleased with the understanding between the two churches, the feeling of friendship," said Elahi.

"Our joint occupancy is another opportunity to celebrate our closeness and how much we believe in the same values and are against the same problems."

"When it comes to the issues of life, standards and values, we're pretty close together," he said.

The Islamic House of Wisdom completed the \$1.7-million deal in October with no outside financial support.

Elahi would like to adapt the building to an Islamic architectural style, but said working on establishing a full-time school is a higher priority.

A native of Iran who came to the United States five years ago, Elahi began studying religion at age 12 and majored in theology and social studies at Tehran University.

"Although I'm concerned about

things affecting Muslims all over the world, our focus is problems of the community, especially the young generation," said Elahi, "and concerns about the future—how to educate them to be strong and good citizens for the family of human beings, to feel responsible, take things seriously and represent values of their faith."

The imam wants to alleviate misunderstanding and mistrust of the religion by providing information to non-Muslims.

"We plan to address that problem, and show that Islam is a religion of understanding and rationality, a religion of love and friendship."

"People need to learn about cultures. The problem is ignorance. Sometimes we don't know one another, and then some people come to realize they have embraced Islamic values for years."

The mosque has occupied its Dearborn location since its break in April 1995 from the Islamic Center of America, north of Dearborn on Joy Road in Detroit.

Elahi is planning a Dec. 15 reception at the Chase Road building to help raise funds for the move.

Formerly known as Fairlane Christian Assembly, Detroit World Outreach is an Assembly of God church, part of the Pentecostal movement that arose early in the century. The church is distinguished by belief in tangible manifestations of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and healing.

Cambodia to Reward Khmer Rouge Who Helped Briton

PHNOM PENH, (Reuters) - The Cambodian government is ready to reward rebel defectors said to have helped British mine clearance expert Christopher Howes and his interpreter escape from Khmer Rouge captivity, a top official said on Friday.

"We are ready to reward them after their arrival because they not only defected but also accomplished the major achievement of bringing the foreign mine clearer," Co-Defense Minister Tea Banh told Reuters.

The minister, who did not say what form or amount the reward would take, was referring to guards and dissident guerrillas who helped Howes, 36, and his interpreter Houn Hourth, 30, escape earlier this month from Anlong Veng, the northern stronghold of the hardline Khmer Rouge loyal to Pol Pot.

The two men were abducted by armed men on March 26.

Reports of their whereabouts and captors had been sketchy but the government believed they were in Khmer Rouge hands.

Tea Banh said Howes' Khmer Rouge companions, reportedly 151 fighters, including 11 guards and a divisional commander, would also be inducted into the Royal Cambodian armed forces.

Lieutenant General Nhiek Bun Chhay, who has been leading the operation to bring Howes back to Phnom Penh, told reporters a helicopter was at Phnom Penh's military airport to fetch Howes from the central province of Kompong Thom.

The armed forces deputy chief of staff has said the two men were expected to arrive in the Cambodian capital later on Friday.

The Khmer Rouge hardliners, through their nominal Leader Khieu Samphan, had denied involvement in the abduction.

The outlawed group, which ruled Cambodia by terror in the late 1970s, reneged on a U.N.-brokered 1991 peace pact and started fighting the coalition government that emerged from 1993 polls.

Democrats Scare off Asian Contributions, Lawyer

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (Reuters) - The Democratic National Committee (DNC) sent a "chilling" message to Asian-American contributors by returning their money, including \$253,000 in legal donations to a Thai family, their lawyer said on Thursday.

"My clients don't want to be dragged into this," Bill Hou said, accepting the money, even though it was entirely legal to give it.

The Washington lawyer, who is also a Democratic Party activist and fundraiser, said the DNC's re-

sponse to Republican charges has sent "a chilling message to Asian Americans. People are not going to contribute."

The DNC informed the federal election commission that it is returning \$253,000 to Pralun Kanchanalak, even though the contribution was legal since she was a resident of the United States.

Former DNC fundraiser John Huang, who raised funds among Asian Americans, may have solicited some of the contributions

from Pauline Kanchanalak. Pralun Kanchanalak's daughter-in-law, who is active in Democratic Party circles.

The DNC said the checks it received from the family, which controls a major development company in Thailand, were signed by a "P. Kanchanalak" and thought they were from Pauline, who lives in McLean, Virginia.

But Pauline informed the DNC that it was her mother-in-law, also a permanent resident of the

See Page 13

Barcelona Concern over Ronaldo's Health

PARIS (AFP) - The physical state of star attacker Ronaldo has become a serious business for second-placed Barcelona, who have benefited greatly from the 13 goals he has scored in Spain this season.

The Catalan giants, who travel to Athletic Bilbao on Saturday evening, are worried about the Brazilian's reported right thigh injury which could threaten his performances.

The club's doctors are not surprisingly keeping an anxious watch on Ronaldo's health such has been his impact in the Catalan capital.

And as yet, English coach Bobby Robson has not yet hinted whether he will use him in their difficult trip to the Basque Country. Bilbao are unbeaten at home for nearly two months.

Leaders Real Madrid on Sunday entertain Valencia, whose Argentine coach Jorge Valdano has just been named coach. Hurriedly sacked by Real Madrid last January, Valdano will not have the chance for revenge against his former club because he does not take over till Monday.

Third-placed Deportivo la Coruna have virtually nothing to fear on Sunday at home to 19th-placed Logrones, who nevertheless managed a 0-0 draw at Real Madrid two weeks ago.

All the excitement in Italian Football will be crammed into a single fixture this weekend when Serie A leaders Inter Milan take on reigning champions AC Milan at San Siro.

Italy's biggest derby fixture will have extra spice this time around because both sides have a lot more than Lombard pride at stake.

Having thrashed European champions Juventus 3-0 in the Italian Cup last week, Inter need to prove they really are championship material by beating another major rival for the title.

Roy Hodgson's side have impressed in both League and Cup competition this season, but on Sunday night they face Franco

Baresi at the back and the likes of George Weah and Roberto Baggio up front.

AC Milan meanwhile have their own problems to sort out, and a convincing victory over Inter could be the turning point in a difficult season.

Coach Oscar Tabarez has struggled without 36-year-old Baresi's fearsome presence in defense, following a series of injuries, and they have clocked up a very mixed run of results.

German leaders Stuttgart technically have an easy match at Duisburg on Sunday, Stuttgart have lost only once away from home this season.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen, level on points with Stuttgart, make a trip to Hamburg on Saturday to play lowly Sankt Pauli.

Bayern Munich, in third spot one point behind Stuttgart and Leverkusen, have a fairly easy task against bottom-placed Hansa Rostock. The club of the former East Germany only just missed qualifying for a UEFA Cup spot last season.

Perhaps the fixture of the day concerns defending Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund, who make the trip to Werder Bremen. Though Bremen are only in seventh spot, not high for a team used to great success, the northern port club are yet to lose at home this season.

In France, leaders Paris Saint Germain host Olympique Marseille in a Parc des Princes battle on Friday as they look to extend their three-point lead over Monaco.

There is little love lost between Paris and Marseille supporters and 1,000 police will be on alert in and around the stadium at its all-ticket game.

Scotland's John Collins, suspended for midweek UEFA Cup action is back for Monaco as they host Nantes. And Collins' teammate Sylvain Legwinski, who has a back injury, should also be able to take his place.

Ponting Quick to Punish West Indies Pace Men

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - Ricky Ponting tamed West Indies lethal pace attack Friday to give Australia the initiative on the opening day of the first test here.

Ponting failed to get his maiden test century, falling for 88, but Steve Waugh and Ian Healy took Australia to 282 for five at the end of the day.

Waugh and Healy put on an unbeaten sixth wicket stand of 86 in 94 minutes to deny West Indies after skipper Courtney Walsh had taken two wickets in two balls to have Australia wobbling at 196 for five.

Steve Waugh left the field unbeaten on 48 with Healy on 47 not out.

But Ponting, who turns 22 next month and filling the number three spot held by his illustrious fellow Tasmanian David Boon, was Australia's star on day one.

He cracked 10 boundaries and hooked a six in his lively 208-minute innings.

Ponting, who scored 96 and 71 against Sri Lanka last summer, again missed out on a cherished maiden test century. He attempted to pull Kenny Benjamin only to give an easy catch to Walsh at mid-on about 20 minutes before tea.

"I felt pretty sick when I came

off, realizing that there was still two hours and a bit to bat, but Heals and Steve have consolidated really well so that makes me a bit better," Ponting said.

"I'm still not batting great by any means, but my feet are moving better than they did in India last month and the longer I batted today the better I felt. It's just time in the middle I need to get back to perfect again."

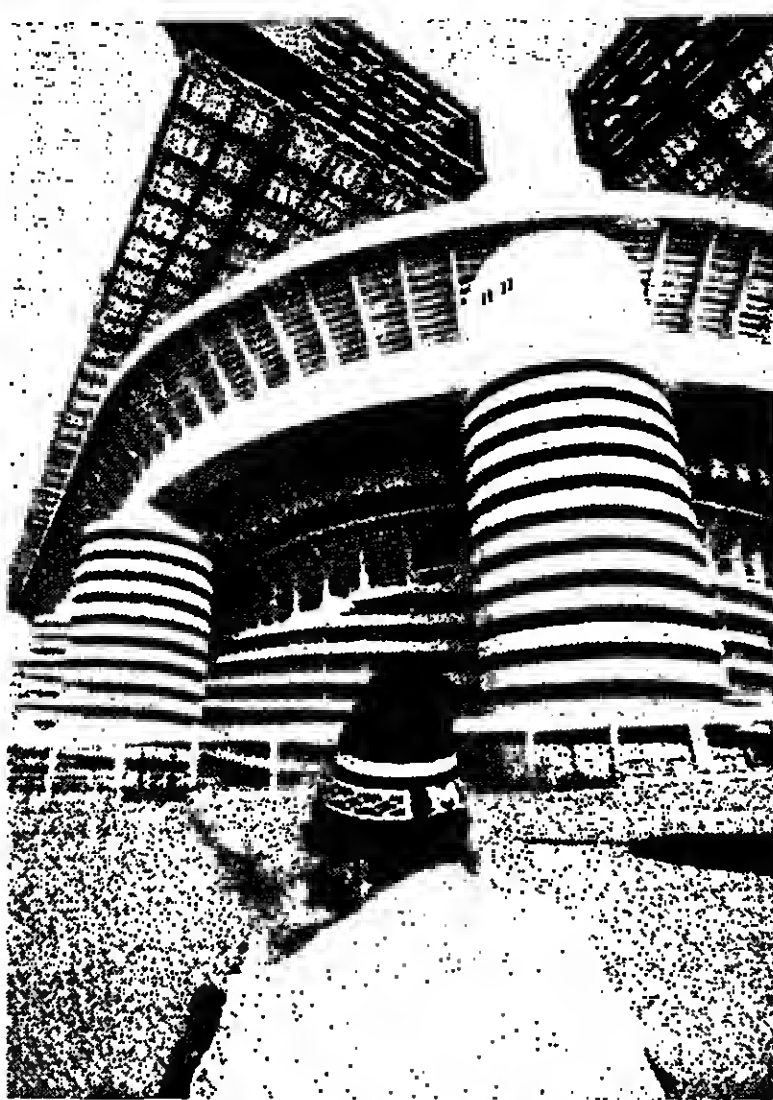
Ponting decided that batting positively was the best policy to adopt against the Curtly Ambrose-Walsh pace menace.

"That's the best way to play these guys, they tend to get on top when they're at you all the time and things are going their way and I've always said that wherever I bat I would play my natural game."

Walsh finished the day the tourists' best-performed bowler with 3-69 off 22 overs, snaring Australian counterpart Mark Taylor for 43, Mark Waugh for 38 and Michael Bevan a first-ball duck.

The dismissals took 34-year-old Walsh's test haul to 312, second only to team coach Malcolm Marshall's 376 as the West Indies' greatest wicket-taker and ranking eighth highest in tests overall.

Ambrose gave West Indies a flying start when he dispatched test



MILAN: A lonesome soccer supporter stands in front of the closed and empty Milan's "San Siro" stadium. (AFP Photo)

India Struggle for Survival in First Test



AHMADABAD, INDIA (AFP) - India were battling for survival in the first cricket test against South

Africa on Friday after losing three important wickets in the post-lunch session of the third day.

Trailing by 21 runs on the first innings, the Indians carried their lunch score of 23 for two to 91 for five by tea, an overall lead of 70 with just five wickets in hand.

Skipper Sachin Tendulkar, who saw openers Sanjay Manjrekar and Nayan Mongia depart before lunch before the deficit had been wiped out, was dismissed for seven.

He drove a slower ball from seamer Brian McMillan uppishly to cover where the athletic Jonty Rhodes made no mistake to make India 38 for three.

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin (24) and Rahul Dravid put on 44 for the fourth wicket when McMillan set India back again, this time with a brilliant catch in the slips.

The burly all-rounder dived to his right to pick up the low edge from Azharuddin's hanging bat, providing fast bowler Allan Donald his third wicket in the innings and seventh of the match.

Then in the penultimate delivery before tea, off-spinner Pat Symcox trapped dravid leg-before for 34 to cap a good day so far for the South Africans.

Starting the third day at 202 for eight, still 21 behind India's 223, the tourists took their score to 244 before being all out an hour after the start.

Fanie de Villiers, whose previous best in 14 tests was 66 not out against Pakistan in 1994, became the highest scorer in the bowler-dominated match with an unbeaten 67.

De Villiers, who put on 64 for the eighth wicket with Pat Symcox (32) on Thursday, added a record 60 for the ninth with Donald (17).

The wagging tail helped the South Africans add 125 for the last three wickets after the first seven had fallen for 119 on the second day.

Graf Produces Under Pressure

NEW YORK (AFP) - Steffi Graf has thrived under pressure all year, from fighting off back and knee injuries to dealing with her father's imprisonment on tax evasion charges.

So when Graf staged an improbable second-set rally to beat Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport at the WTA Championships here Thursday, it was merely another challenge to be savored by the world number one from Germany.

Graf beat Davenport 6-4, 7-6 (13/11), saving five set points, all in the tie-breaker, and winning when the American sent two returns long and another into the net to conclude the 100-minute match.

"Maybe I just need to be trailing to come back to focus," Graf said. "It seemed I was playing better at that point."

Graf trailed 5-2 in the second set before roaring back to advance into a semi-final against the winner of Friday's match between world number two Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and third-ranked Czech Jana Novotna.

Davenport led 6-3 in the tie-breaker, winning the first five points on Graf's serve. But a risky drop shot success, a forehand winner and ace kept Graf from a third set.

"I just wanted to keep the ball in play and start off the third set well," Graf said. "she started to make mistakes and didn't serve as well after that."

Davenport scrambled to save three match points, the last when the ball hit the net cord, dropped over and landed just inside the side-line to even the tie-breaker at 10-10. It merely set the stage for

Graf's triumph.

"I felt like I couldn't hit a ball in the court," Davenport said. "Every big point, I played terrible. It's my fault. I have to learn to play those points a lot better. I am disgusted with the way I played the big points."

Also reaching Saturday's semi-finals was Iva Majoli. The Croatian withstood a rib injury to beat world number four Conchita Martinez 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4). Next is Japan's Kimiko Date or Swiss teen Martina Hingis.

Majoli suffered an upper left rib injury that made breathing difficult when she lunged for a backhand shot in the fifth game of the second set. She was treated by a trainer and withstood the pain to the finish.

"When the pain was bad, it was hard to breathe," Majoli said. "When I wanted to take a deep breath, I couldn't. The pain was very strong. I was getting tired very fast. I didn't have much energy. I didn't want it to go to a third set. That would have been hard."

Majoli joined Martinez, Graf and Monica Seles on the hurt list here at the season-ending event, a \$2 million showdown of 16 top WTA players.

But Graf showed no sign of the back and leg pain that forced her out of two tournaments since her U.S. Open triumph.

"I feel pretty good," Graf said. "The past few weeks I didn't move too much. Today I moved a lot. We played a lot of long rallies. I felt glad I was able to do it."

Doctors have told Graf she needs to strengthen the muscles through workout sessions rather than rest.

Esteghlal Look to Mansourian to Defeat Al-Hilal



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TEHRAN - Esteghlal soccer club of Tehran in its crucial Asian Cup Winners' cup semifinal match against al-Hilal of Saudi Arabia to be played in Riyadh on Sunday look to its distinguished attacking midfielder Alireza Mansourian.

Mansourian who was voted as Player of the Year in last season is the key man in Esteghlal's tactics. His strength, skill and powerful shots have made him the best player of the country.

In an interview with IRAN NEWS, Mansourian said he is optimistic over Esteghlal's victory over Al-Hilal.

He said: "If we can mark al-Hilal's Nigerian forward, then we can defeat them. Otherwise we will have problem."

Mansourian who is considered as one of Iran's best talents of new soccer generation has received some considerable offers from Austrian, Singaporean and English clubs and he has begun negotiations.

Mansourian was born in Tehran in 1971. He began his career with Karoon Meyssam club and before joining Esteghlal he played for Atash Neshani, Bonyad-e Shahid, Fajr Sepah, Niroo-e Zamini and Pars Khodrow clubs.

He owes his success to his coaches like the late Parviz Dehdari, Mehdi Monajati, Mehdi Dinvarzadeh, Nasrollah Abdolahi, Behtash Fariba, Mansoor Poorheydari and Parviz Mazloomi.

He believes that Iran should make its soccer professional to be able to compete with other countries.

Esteghlal left Tehran for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Thursday morning. It will play Al-Hilal on Sunday and in case of victory, it will reach the finals which is to be played on Tuesday.

